

Please Pray for

Our Sick - Mauricio Bonozzoni, Anicca Jurica, Ryan Annear, Gerhard, Monika, Kerry Marshall, John Marshall, Michael, Teena, Pat Pace, Don Buchanan, Chris Kelly, Therese Sutherland, Maria Siketa, Harry Lord, Carolyn Marshall, Sandra Marshall, Allison Joel, Nicole Bigotto.

Recently Deceased - Joseph Caboche, Phyllis Wilson.

In Remembrance - Romulo Bingham.

All the suffering Souls in Purgatory, All Aborted Babies.

Special Intentions - Ryan Anner, for successful surgery. Gerhard Stadelmaier, Stephen Purvis, Alzheimer patients. Stella, continuing good health.

For the mothers dying in childbirth in PNG.

Reparation for the sins of abortion

Safeguarding Children and Young People Reporting Abuse or Safety Related Misconduct
All reports are to be directed to: **Safeguarding Unit** 9926 5621 / email: safeguardingunit@cam.org.au or contact Victoria Police directly. Remember! Always call 000 if a child or adult is in immediate danger. **Safeguarding Policies:** <https://www.frankstoncatholic.com.au/sfx/policies>

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B - 10 March 2024
Parish Theme - *Revitalising our Community in Christ*

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
60 Davey Street, Frankston 3199.

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

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp
Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp
Deacon: Rev. Kevin Pattison
Secretary: Christina, Rosita
Phone: 9783 3484

chinua.okeke@cam.org.au
jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au
kevin.pattison@cam.org.au
Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm
Monday - Friday

Sunday's Readings
1st Reading
2 Chron 36:14-16, 19-23
2nd Reading
Eph 2: 4-10
Gospel
Jn 3:14-21

Next Sunday's Readings
1st Reading
Jer 31:31-34
2nd Reading
Heb 5: 7-9
Gospel
Jn 12:20-30

Depth of Love
God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (John 3:14-21)

OFFERINGS	
Giving Back to God	
St Francis Xavier	St John the Evangelist
Church \$2,627	Church \$746
Presbytery \$652	Presbytery \$680

Thank you for your continuing support.

Vinnies good works Assistance : 9769 6060

If you would like to help or volunteer in the good works of the Society, call office 9769 6060.

SFX Vinnies - Geraldine Stanistreet 0438 120 142
Meetings held on 1st & 3rd Mon 4:00pm-5:30pm
SJE Vinnies - John Murtagh: 9781 3520
Meetings held on 1st & 3rd Tues 10:00am-11:30am

Welcome, Thank You for worshipping with us at **St Francis Xavier** and **St John the Evangelist** Churches.

Please let us know if:

- You are new to the Parish
- Recently changed your home address
- Need Sacrificial Thanksgiving Envelopes

Please fill in your details and drop it in the collection bag or hand it to the Priest.

Name/Tele: _____
Address: _____

† Many Blessings †

Syro-Malabar Mass
SFX - Thursday at 6.00pm

Confidential Prayer Request Line
Call: Margaret 0417 535 028 - Kerry 0413 212 057

Frankston Friendship Club
Fun & Friendship for All. New Members Most Welcome.
1st Wednesday of month: 10:30am in Xavier Centre.
Bus Trips: 3rd Thursday of month
Contact : Suzy 0419 367 778 or Mary 0427 783 829

Legion of Mary
Our Lady of All Nations Praesidium, SFX Parish, meets in Quilter Room Saturday, 10:30am
Enquiries: Elizabeth / Parish 9783 3484.
Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary Praesidium SJE Parish, meets in Flower Room Thursday, 1:00pm
Enquires: Jacinta 0429 090 001
All are cordially invited!

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on
3rd Sunday of month **during** Mass, and
4th Sunday of month **after** 10:00/10:30am Mass.
Baptism preparation attendance is required, prep via Zoom, prior to Baptism. Call P/O for more info & form.

Mothers who Pray for their Children
You are invited to join us every Thursday at 4:00pm in SFX Chapel.
With Kids Choir in Church
You are welcome to bring your children.

Adoration of the Holy Spirit Prayer Group
If you hunger to know, love and serve God more, then join our **Eucharistic Adoration of the Holy Spirit Prayer Group** at 1:00pm each Wednesday in the Chapel for Adoration, Prayers and songs followed by Bible study.
All welcome!

We are a Child-Safe Community .. Safeguarding Unit Tel: 9926 5621

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 Mass
1st Friday of month 24 hours

Station of the Cross
Every Friday after Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday 10:00am and 5:30pm

Anointing of the Sick Mass
1st Thursday of month 9:15am

Rosary
Tuesday before 9:15am Mass and Saturday after 9:15am Mass

St. John the Evangelist 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 Mass
1st Friday of month until 10:30am

Station of the Cross
Every Friday after Mass

Reconciliation
Saturday 9:30am and 6:15pm

Anointing of the Sick Mass
1st Thursday of month 9:00am

Rosary
Before weekday Mass, [except Wed], Saturday at 9:30am

Holy Gospel according to John 3: 14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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



Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Lætare, (Rejoice), Sunday, from the first words of the day's liturgy, [the Introit]. Since this Sunday occurs in the middle of Lent, as Gaudete Sunday is celebrated midway through Advent, Lætare Sunday reminds us of the Event we look forward to at the end of the penitential season. As on Gaudete Sunday, rose-colored vestments may replace violet, with flowers on the altar. These outward signs symbolize the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection, a joy which cannot be contained even in Lent, though we still refrain from Alleluia and the singing of the Gloria until the magnificence of the Easter Vigil.

On this fourth Sunday of Lent we are invited to meditate on our own lack of response to God's invitation to us and to share with faith his sufferings by doing penance so that we may inherit our eternal salvation and the glory of His Resurrection in heaven. Each one of us can find ways in which we have lived without faith and without response to this God who loves us so much. Lent is about our journey to accept God's love for us and God's divine presence in our lives. It is a journey to accept our own sinfulness and to ask for forgiveness. Lent is a time to look again at our relationship with our God who loves us, and our relationship with the God-man Jesus who gave His life for us and our own relationship with one another.

The central theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God given to us through Jesus His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion, the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ. As we continue our Lenten observance, the Sacred Liturgy invites us to enter more deeply into the mystery of God's grace, mercy and salvation.

In the first reading, we learnt about the compassion and patience of God. The passage also shows us how the people's infidelities caused them to lose the Temple and their homeland. God allowed Cyrus the Great, a pagan King and conqueror from Persia, to become the instrument of His mercy and salvation for His chosen people, who were in exile in Babylon to return them to their homeland and to help them rebuild His Temple there.

In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus. Also He teaches that, although we don't deserve anything from God on our own merits, God chose to love, save and give life to us - both Jewish and Gentile Christians -because of His great mercy and love. By grace we are saved through Faith, and this is not our own doing; it is the gift of God, (Eph 4:8-10). The Catholic doctrine teaches that salvation is "by grace through Faith unto good works." We must do "good works" if we have been truly saved. In other words, if we are saved by our Faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, good works will follow as our acts of thanksgiving. This favour from God is constantly being offered, and our challenge is to respond to it gratefully by leading a good life. Then we will experience peace with God, peace with people around us, peace with life and peace with ourselves.

Today's Gospel has a parallel theme, but on a much higher level. Nicodemus learns that, like Moses' bronze serpent, Jesus, too, must be "lifted up", (a contemporary euphemism for being crucified), and that the act of His being "lifted up" will similarly bring about salvation. This is the first of three references in John's Gospel to Jesus being "lifted up", specifically, this reference foreshadows the crucifixion of Jesus who carried with Him the burden of the sins of the world.

When humans turn their thoughts to their crucified Saviour and believe in Him, they too will find eternal life. Jesus was lifted up twice: on the Cross and at his Ascension into Heaven. Just as the cross was the way to glory for Jesus, so it is for us. However, without the cross, there is no crown.

Jesus, the Son of God, became the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God expressed His love, mercy and compassion for us by giving His only begotten Son for our salvation. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. This is the summary of the Gospel message of salvation through Christ Jesus.

In today's text, we are told, Light has come into the world, but people loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. There are many dark corners in our world. Addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling and pornography, sexual immorality, environmental irresponsibility, and a lack of purpose among so many of us, especially among young people, are a few of these dark corners. It is very easy to pretend that these dark corners don't exist. Our lives matter to God, and He knows all about the dark corners in our lives. He wants us to stop hiding our sin in the dark and demands that we expose every dark corner to His Light of life. He is giving to us the Light that not only shows up the dirt in our lives but cleans it away. He died so that we could be made new and clean. Freely, the light of His forgiveness shines into our lives, brightening up every corner, forgiving every sin, restoring our relationship with God, renewing our lives.

Life lessons: We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love: The crucifix – the symbol of the "lifted up" Jesus - holds a central place in our Churches because it is a forceful reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation. Hence, no Christian home should be without this symbol of God's love. The crucifix invites us to more than generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image and carry our own daily cross with joy.

We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving and merciful. Let us try, with His help, to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities as we share our love with others during Lent. We must lead a life of repentance and conversion, bringing us to a renewal of life with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us. The renewal of the Spirit comes when we work with Him to be liberated from the bondage of evil habits by using the Divine strength we receive through prayer, Bible reading and frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

Let us be bearers of Jesus' light and carry it to other people. When we allow the light of God's forgiveness to shine in our lives, it brightens up every corner, forgives every sin, restores our relationship with God and renews our lives. Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness. We will experience the joy and peace of sins forgiven, of new attitudes and of new relationships with family and friends. Jesus' light of truth, justice, holiness and charity shining in our lives should bring blessing to others. We are to let this light of Christ shine through us into the lives of the people around us. The light we give to others can dispel the darkness of their lives and bring them to a completely new outlook. Let us not underestimate what the light of Christ can do through us. As Jesus said: "You are the light of the world your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven", (Matthew 5:14, 16). May God bless us all. **Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp**

PARISH NOTICES

Sunday, 10 March :
Anointing of the sick for the month of March will take place at all Masses this Sunday.

Saturday, 16 & 23 March: SFX & SJE WORKING BEES TO CLEAN AND DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR PALM SUNDAY/EASTER
Advanced request for assistance, after Mass, to decorate church. Many hands make light work.

Sunday, 24 March: PALMS / OLIVE BRANCEHS are needed for Palm Sunday. Please Call the Parish office 9783 3484 if you can help.

SFX morning tea next Sunday, 17 March.
Come and join us for a cuppa after 10:30am Mass and please bring a plate to share.

Thank you to SJE Parishioners for your get will wishes and love.
Ricki Seipp

MERCY MELBOURNE TUESDAY, 19 MARCH, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

On Tuesday 19th March many parishes across Melbourne are taking part in 'Mercy Melbourne' - an initiative that invites parishes to open their doors for a special evening of prayer and the Sacrament of Confession.

You can see a list of all parishes involved at mercymelbourne.org

SFX will be taking part in 'Mercy Melbourne'. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:00pm followed by Prayer Service on Mercy, Adoration and Confession.

St Francis Xavier	Holy Week & Easter 2024	St John the Evangelist
Palm Sunday 24 March		
6.00pm (23 March)	Vigil Mass- Blessing of Palms	7.00pm (23 March)
8.30am	Mass - Blessing of Palms	8.30am
10.30am 5.30pm	Mass - Blessing of Palms (Solemn Procession)	10.00am
Holy Thursday - 28 March		
7.30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper & Watch & Prayer until 12am	7.00pm
Good Friday - 29 March		
9.30am	SFX Station of the Cross SJE Station of the Cross	9.30am
3.00pm	Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3.00pm
SOLEMNITY OF EASTER		
7.30pm	Easter Vigil - 30 March	8.00pm
8.30am 10.00am 5.30pm	Easter Sunday - 31 March	8.30am 10.00am
EASTER RECONCILIATION		
Tues, 19 Mar 6.00-9.00pm	7.30pm (Second Rite)	Thur, 21 Mar 7.30pm
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 7 April		
1.00pm	Confession, Rosary, Procession and Mass	-

Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2024

"Through the desert God leads us to freedom."

In his Message, Pope Francis recalls that Lent "is a season of conversion, a time of freedom" because "God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters" and, citing the Book of Exodus, he emphasizes that the Word of God addresses each one of us personally today: "I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery".

Along these lines, the Holy Father emphasizes that "it is time to act, and in Lent to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister" because "love of God and love of neighbor are one love".

The invitation consists, then, of "to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbor. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, and he adds that "to the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope".

Referring to the synodal journey in the Church, Pope Francis suggests that Lent is also "a time of communitarian decisions, of decisions, small and large, that are countercurrent," that change people's daily lives, such as, "the ways we acquire goods, care for creation, and strive to include those who go unseen or are looked down upon."

"I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles" to evaluate and improve their contribution to society, the Pope writes.

