



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 8 September 2024  
Parish Theme - *Revitalising our Community in Christ*

**Please Pray for**

Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask for Your healing hand to be upon our friends who are suffering. Restore their health with Your loving care

**Our Sick** - Fay Pattison, John McCready, Brian Brookes,

**Recently Deceased** - Zelma Cannan, Terry Dunlop, Angelina Lo-Nigro

**In Remembrance** - All fathers who have gone before us, John Caspersz, Eduardo Landrito, Modesta Landrito, Jack Landrito, Joan Williams, Fernando dos Santos, Francisco Romero, Rainer Dornauer, Gerry Butler

**Special Intentions** - Sebastian, Elizabeth, Kathleen, Christine, Irene Ong, Emmanuel Omo-Oribhabun

**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](mailto: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

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

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

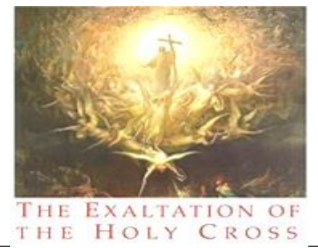
**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp  
**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp  
**Deacon, Ret** Rev. Kevin Pattison  
**Secretary:** Rosita, Teresa  
**Phone:** 9783 3484  
**Email:** frankston@cam.org.au

chinua.okeke@cam.org.au  
jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au  
kevin.pattison@cam.org.au  
**Office Hours:** 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Monday - Friday  
**Web:** [www.frankstoncatholic.com.au](http://www.frankstoncatholic.com.au)

**Sunday's Readings**  
**1st Reading**  
Isaiah 35:4-7  
**2nd Reading**  
James 2:1-5  
**Gospel**  
Mark 7:31-37

**Next Sunday's Read 15/9**  
**1st Reading**  
Isaiah 50:5-9  
**2nd Reading**  
James 2:14-18  
**Gospel**  
Mark 8:27-35

**Feast Days**  
8/9 St Arnold Janssen, SVD  
9/9 St Peter Claver  
10/9 St Finian  
11/9 St Patiens of Lyon  
12/9 Most Holy Name of Mary  
13/9 St John Chrysostom  
14/9 Exaltation of the Cross



**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!*

**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  
Enq: Elizabeth / Parish 9783 3484.  
**Our Lady Queen of the Holy Rosary Praesidium, SJE Parish,** meets in Flower Room, Thursday, 1:00pm.  
Enq: Jacinta 0429 090 001  
*All are warmly welcomed!*

**Mothers who Pray for their Children**  
You are invited to join us every Monday, at 7:00pm in SFX Chapel.  
You are welcome to bring your children.  
Enq: Bersabe 0415 442 030

**Syro-Malabar Mass**  
St Francis Xavier Church - Thursday, 6.00pm

**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, via zoom, is required prior to Baptism.  
Call P/O 9783 3484 for more info & form.

**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**  
\* **Monday, 9 Sept, Mass at 9.15am**  
\* **Saturday, 14 Sept No Mass or Comm Service**  
Tuesday - Saturday 9:15am; 1st + 3rd Mondays of the month  
**Liturgy of Word and Communion Service**  
\* **Friday, 13 Sept Comm Service**  
[Monday 9:15am; 2nd, 4th + 5th Mondays of the month]  
**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament and Adoration**  
\* **Thursday, 12 Sept Adoration and Benediction after 9.15am Mass**  
[Wednesday before 9:15am Mass 1st Friday of month 24 hours]  
**Reconciliation**  
\* **Saturday 5:30pm, Mass 6.00pm**  
**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**  
\* **14 Sept Vigil Mass: 7.15pm 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 at 8:30am and Friday after 9:00am Mass  
1st Friday of month until 10:30am  
**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

**Sacrificial Giving**  
*Thank you* for your continuing support

<b>St Francis Xavier</b> Church \$1,099.95 Presbytery \$737.80	<b>St John the Evangelist</b> Church \$961 Presbytery \$591
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**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 †

**Holy Gospel according to Mark 7:31-37**

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle.

Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly.

And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



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





## Homily for Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

The first Reading from Isaiah 35:4-7 is upbeat. It declared, "Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'" This was encouraging words for the despondent people of Israel during their captivity in Babylon. From Psalm 137:1-2, we decipher that the Israelites were having nostalgic feeling about Jerusalem their homeland. The psalm stated, "by the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. There on the poplars we hung our harps...." The weeping sons and daughters of Israel who heard these consoling words from the mouth of Prophet Isaiah understood this prophecy to mean that the Lord would come to deliver them from their captivity and would inflict punishment on their captors.

There are many people in the world today who are eagerly waiting to hear these words, "Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'" We think about Christians all over the world who are undergoing persecution because of their faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, women who are experiencing domestic violence, victims of modern-day slavery, refugees, all those who have been seeking employment for a protracted period, those experiencing depression, those suffering from addiction to narcotics, alcohol, pornography and so on. The enemy or the problem in question from which the Lord would save you or resolve may be physical or spiritual or yourself.

The prophecy in Isaiah 35:4-7 also has a Messianic undertone for it mentioned the miraculous opening of the eyes of the blind, the unsealing of the ears of the deaf, the restoration of strength to the legs of the lame and releasing the tongue of the dumb so that he acquires the power of speech.

In the Gospel (Mark 7:31-37), Jesus fulfilled the prophecy contained in Isaiah 35:4-7 by healing a man who was deaf and had an impediment with his speech. In most of Jesus' healing in the Gospels, he gives a command and the healing takes place, however, in performing healing on the deaf and dumb man, he was physical. He placed his fingers into the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with spittle and said, the Aramaic word, "Ephphata" which means 'be opened.' Here, Jesus is also hinting on the importance of medication which is one of the ways God heals us.

The Book of Sirach informed us that it was God who gave knowledge to pharmacists and doctors to treat people with herbs and other medications (Sir 38:1-15). When Jesus healed the deaf and dumb man, the people were full of admiration of him, however, he was not keen for the news of the healing to spread far and near because he did not want the people to misunderstand him as a mere wonder worker or a political leader.

His messiahship must be understood within the context of his passion and death on the cross for the salvation of the world. It was after Jesus' death on the cross that a Roman Centurion who saw the manner of his death from the foot of the cross confessed thus, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mk 15:39).

The healing of the deaf and dumb man also brought spiritual healing to him. It opened his ears to hear the word of God and his mouth to proclaim it. Through our Baptism our ears are opened to hear the word of God and our lips to proclaim it.

**Finally, today being 8<sup>th</sup> September, we wish our Blessed Mother, Mary, Happy Birthday!**

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp



## PARISH NOTICES



**SFX - All Parishioners are Welcome to attend the Healing Mass on Friday, 20 Sept, 7.00pm.**

### Note times to Mass Changes

**SFX Monday, 9 Sept, Mass, 9.15am  
Thursday, 12 Sept, Adoration and Benediction after 9.15am Mass  
Friday, 13 Sept, Communion Service  
Saturday Morning, 14 Sept, No Mass or Comm Service  
Saturday Evening, 14 Sept, Reconciliation: 5.30pm, Mass 6pm**

**SJE Sunday Vigil, Sat. 14 Sept, 7.15pm**

**Confirmation Commitment Mass**  
SFX Sunday, 15 September, 10.30am  
SJE Sunday, 13 October, 10.00am

**Children's Mass 15 September**  
Parents, please bring your children to Mass by 10.00am for a short rehearsal before Mass. All children aged 4-12 are most welcome to participate in the Holy Mass.

All welcome to share in a cuppa, in the hall, after Mass. Pls bring plate to share.

**Investiture of the Miraculous Medal**  
Legion of Mary invites all Parishioners to the **Investiture of the Miraculous Medal** after 10.30am Mass in the hall - during a cuppa! Come and celebrate with a birthday cake to Our Lady. Please bring a plate to share.

Convocation for Season of Creation; 12-14 Sept...  
Register: <https://www.caritas.org.au/soc-convocation/>

**Combined Parishes Raffle**  
Please return any outstanding book.  
**Thank you for your support!**

**catholic mission** Reach out. Give life.  
Catholic Mission thanks the Parish of St Francis Xavier for your support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1,047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$220.00 has been most gratefully received. **Many thanks!**

**Guest Speaker: Rev Sally Douglas; a biblical scholar, theologian, author & Uniting Church Minister - Exploring Women's Wisdom in the Bible and early Christianity. Wed, 25 Sept @ 6.00pm. Hampton RSL 25 Holyrood St. Hampton - Bookings essential Michelle 0415 956 107 Catriona catriona3171@gmail.com**

**S/guard Essentials Training Postponed**  
SFX and SJE Volunteers - Due to unforeseen circumstances the training on Sunday, 15 September, has been postponed until **Sunday, 6 Oct, after 10.00am Mass.**

**Glimmers of Grace** ..Marian month of October is approaching & to receive free daily 'Glimmers of Grace' prayers e.g. 'Our Lady of Olatz, accompany my children in their childhood. Help me to love, nurture and protect them as you do. Please intercede with Jesus to meet the present needs of each child in my family. Amen.' Register at [mailinfo@jjisa.org.au](mailto:mailinfo@jjisa.org.au)

**Vatican II Lecture Series 2024 Preparation for Jubilee 2025** - Honouring Vatican II vision and outcomes. Venue: Little Chapel, Resurrection Church, 402 Corrigan Rd, Keysborough: Wed, 18 Sept, 7-8.30pm, Living the Liturgy - Sat, 5 Oct, 11am - 3pm - Journey Towards Becoming a More Synodal Parish

**La Bamba Spring Dinner Dance**  
October 2024  
October 2024  
at St John's School Hall, Frankston East from 6.30pm - 11pm

Buffet dinner  
BYO drinks and soft drinks

Live music by Mike and the stand's

Donations \$75 p/head

Dress code : Men - Cocktail, ladies - dress to impress | This event is for ages 18 and older

Organised by St Francis Xavier and St John the Evangelist churches, Frankston

**Spring Dinner Dance**  
Eftpos machine is available for payment of tickets  
Tickets available after Masses, & from P/Office