

Please Pray for

Our Sick - Diana, Paul O'Meara, Ivor Phillips, Daniel Fitzpatrick, John McCready, Brian Brookes.

Recently Deceased - Simon Michael Menz, Jure Jakusic, Michael Albuquerque, Paul Bouker, Jim Brassil, Sr. Anita LeClercq.

In Remembrance - Francis Peter, Miranda, Leonard Pendzialek, Margaret Black, Doris Moss.

All Souls in Purgatory

Special Intentions - Maria Sanzaro, Birthday remembrance

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](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.

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C - 15 December, 2024
Parish Theme—Revitalising our Community in Christ

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp chinua.okeke@cam.org.au
Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au
Deacon, Ret Rev. Kevin Pattison kevin.pattison@cam.org.au
Secretary: Rosita Lee, Michelle Murray
Phone: 9783 3484
Email: frankston@cam.org.au
Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday - Friday
Web: www.frankstoncatholic.com.au

Sunday's Readings	Next Sunday's Readings 22/12
1st Reading Zeph 3:14-18 2nd Reading Is 12:2-6 Gospel Luke 3:10-18	1st Reading Micah 5:1-4 2nd Reading Heb 10:5-10 Gospel Luke 1:39-44

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
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, before 9:15am Mass
1st Friday of month 24 hours
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 9:15 am 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 before 9:00am Mass 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
Sunday, 1st December, 2024
Rosary
Before weekday Mass, (except Wed), Saturday at 9:30am

Feast Days
16/12 - St Adelaide
17/12 - St Olympias
18/12 - St Flannan
19/12 - St Anastasius I
20/12 - St Philogonius
21/12 - St Peter Canisius

Sacrificial Giving
Thank you for your continuing support

St Francis Xavier	St John the Evangelist
Church \$2,233.90	Church \$660.00
Presbytery \$1,279.65	Presbytery \$512.00

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:

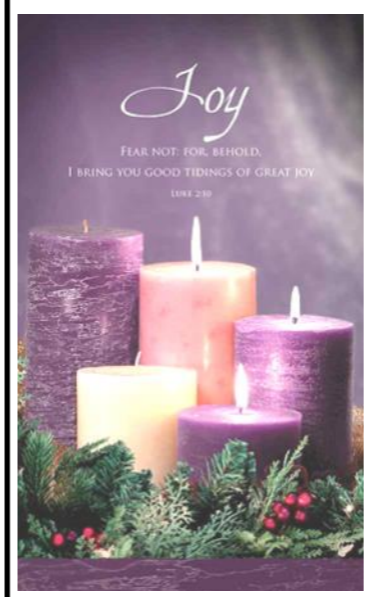
- You are new to the Parish
- Recently changed your home address
- Need Sacrificial Thanksgiving Envelopes

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 Luke 3:10-18



When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for Baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I Baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will Baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

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



Homily for Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

Be Joyful and Happy in the Lord

Today is the third Sunday of Advent popularly known as “*Gaudete Sunday*.” The term Gaudete simply means “to rejoice *in hope*”. This Advent, we are preparing to live a new experience of love and faith in God.

Today we light the rose candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus, as our Savior. Advent is a time for joy, not only because we are anticipating the Anniversary of the Birth of Jesus, but also because God is already in our midst. Christian joy does not come from the absence of sorrow, pain, or trouble, but from an awareness of the presence of Christ within our souls through it all.

In today’s First Reading, the prophet Zephaniah says, “*Shout for joy, O Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel.*” Zephaniah made this prophetic proclamation at the height of the Jewish exile when things appeared hopeless and unbearable.

St. Paul echoes the same message of joy in the second reading, taken from his letter to the Philippians: “*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice... The Lord is in your midst... Fear not... be not discouraged... The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...*” It is very important to note carefully that what Paul says is: “**BE ALWAYS HAPPY IN THE LORD.**” Paul was imprisoned when he made this appeal for rejoicing!

In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God’s Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. A sad Christian is a contradiction in terms. According to St. John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others and sharing our blessings with others in need. St. John’s call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. *Repentance* means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity, and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives and it is to be reflected in our living in the ways St. John suggests. In other words, St. John reminds us that we must care for others and share our blessings with others if we are to live out our Faith.

The Holy Mother Church advises us that we are called to a change of life by taking a deeper look at ourselves and then examine our relationships with others. Also we must mend ruptures, ease or eliminate frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat employees and employers justly. Start where you are, John says. He calls for rectitude and social consciousness. That we must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption, and instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus’ coming.

What should we do in preparation for Christmas? This is the same question the Jews asked John. His answer to them and to us is the same: “Repent and reform your lives,” and prayerfully wait for the Messiah. Our Blessed Mother, in her many apparitions, urgently calls us to more fervent prayer, particularly her Rosary, with fasting, and penitential sacrifices. Let us remember that the Mass is the most powerful of all prayers.

We must be a Eucharistic people, living and experiencing the presence of Jesus in our hearts and adoring Him in His Tabernacle. Let us remember that conversion is an ongoing process affected by our daily cooperation with Jesus, whom we encounter in the Sacraments. Let us spend some time every week in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us forgive those who offend us and pray for them.

Finally, let us share our love with others as selfless and humble service. For our joy to be complete this season we must be charitable, forgiving, just, and be modest in our actions. Also, we have to seek reconciliation and live in peace with one another. Above all, we must shun all acts that are capable of making life difficult for others.

We may need patience and constancy in prayer. These are very important spiritual virtues. These will lead us to sanctity and the fullness of joy. As we wait joyfully for the fulfillment of God’s promises to us this season, may He fill our hearts with charity and peace of mind. Amen!

Fr. Jude CSSp



PARISH NOTICES



Children’s Choir Practise SFX
11:00am to 1:00pm: 21/12, 24/12

Please join us after 10.30am Mass today to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier and Christmas Party. The Christmas raffle will also be drawn after Mass today.

SFX Nativity Drama

Children who would like to participate in the Nativity Drama on Tuesday, 24 December at 6.30pm. Please write your name on the sheet in the foyer / call Parish Office 9783 3484.



SIMBANG GABI 2024

Nine Days Novena Dawn Mass
Monday 16 - Tuesday 24 December
at 5.00am at St Francis Xavier’s Church
Maina 0401 101 428 or Fe Gillies 0418 592 944

Simbang Gabi (Filipino for “Night Mass”) is a Devotional series of nine day Masses in anticipation of the Birth of Jesus Christ and honours the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Christmas Reconciliation

SJE - Thursday, 19 December at 7:00pm
SFX - Friday, 20 December at 7:00pm

Sacramental Programme

An invitation for State school students in Grade 4 in 2025. Children to register for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.



Columban Calendars for 2025
and Christmas Cards are on sale
after all Masses



Flower Ministry - SFX | SJE
Donations are welcome for the purchase
of flowers for the Christmas Masses.

Divine Will Retreat led by Fr. Hugh Thomas CSsR

10-12 January 2025 at SFX Church

Friday 10 Jan, 2025 - 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Saturday 11 Jan, 2025 - 10.30am - 3.15pm
Sunday 12 Jan, 2025 - 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Detailed Programme at front desk in the foyer. Please register at <https://www.trybooking.com/CXNHZ>.

Donations to cover expenses are most welcome.

Church Loan Repayment SFX

Target : \$120,000.00
Received to Date : \$4,950.00

Church Renovation SJE

Target : \$50,000.00
Received to Date : \$5,000.00

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

Thank you for the donations towards the Spiritan PNG Appeal.

SFX \$2,400.00 SJE \$1,005.00



Parish Office will be closed over the
Christmas period from
24th December, 2024
to
15 January, 2025.

“Raise your heads”

Pope Francis tells faithful in first Advent message amid multiple conflicts

Pope Francis welcomed the recent Lebanon-Israel ceasefire while urging the faithful to “stand erect and raise your heads” amid global turmoil during his Sunday [Angelus address](#).

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the first Sunday of Advent, the pontiff expressed hope that the diplomatic breakthrough between Lebanon and Israel could spark similar ceasefires elsewhere, particularly in Gaza, while delivering a powerful message about maintaining spiritual vigilance in times of tribulation.

“Jesus’ invitation is this: Raise your head high and keep your heart light and awake,” the Holy Father said, addressing a world grappling with what he called “cosmic upheavals and anxiety and fear in humanity.”

The pope noted that many people today, like Jesus’ contemporaries, faced with “catastrophic events they saw happening around them — persecutions, conflicts, natural disasters — are gripped by anxiety and think that the end of the world is coming.”

“Their hearts are weighed down with fear,” Francis observed. “Jesus, however, wants to free them from present anxieties and false convictions, showing them how to stay awake in their hearts, how to read events from the plan of God, who works salvation even within the most dramatic events of history.”

(By AC Wimmer <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/260773/vatican-advent-2024-pope-francis-addresses-global-fear-calls-for-light-hearts>)

Psalm: Is:12

Shout, and sing for Joy,
for great in your midst
is the Holy one of Israel

Reflection

Rejoice in God’s constant presence, guidance and protection in every step of the way.

