

Please Pray for

Our Sick - Julie Ashley, Leonie Solomon, Diana, Paul O'Meara, Ivor Phillips, Rebecca Jeffrey, Judy Donneley, Carmen Galea

Recently Deceased - Nancy Butler, Mary Grimshaw, Simon Michael Menz, Jure Jakusic, Paul Bouker, Michael Albuquerque, Jim Brassil.

In Remembrance - John Scott, Jimmy Gorman, Giorgios Kyriacos Panaeyotou, Melanie Panaeyotou, Garry Marshall, Gregory Ong, Ken Walker, Salih Basic, Arianne Rault, Francis Peter, Miranda,
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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C - 22 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
Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday - Friday
Phone: 9783 3484
Email: frankston@cam.org.au
Web: www.frankstoncatholic.com.au

Sunday's Readings	Next Sunday's Readings 29/12
1st Reading Micah 5:1-4 2nd Reading Heb 10:5-10 Gospel Luke 1:39-44	1st Reading 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 Gospel Luke 2:41-52

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

Feast Days

23/12 - St John of Kanty
 24/12 - Christmas Eve
 25/12 - Nativity of Our Lord
 26/12 - St Stephen
 27/12 - St John the Evangelist & Apostle
 28/12 - The Holy Innocents



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
 Suspended until 1st February, 2025
 1st Friday of month 24 hours
 Suspended until 1st February, 2025

Reconciliation
 Saturday 5:30pm

Anointing of the Sick Mass
 1st Thursday of month 9:15am suspended until 1st Feb, 2025

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 before 9:00am Mass and Friday after 9:00am Mass. Suspended until 1st February, 2025.
 1st Friday of month until 10:30am.
 Suspended until 1st February, 2025

Reconciliation
 Saturday 9:30am

Anointing of the Sick Mass Suspended until 1st Feb 2025

Rosary
 Before weekday Mass, (except Wed), Saturday at 9:30am

Sacrificial Giving
 Thank you for your continuing support

St Francis Xavier	St John the Evangelist
Church \$1,633.75	Church \$1,035.00
Presbytery \$1,105.00	Presbytery \$681.00

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.

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 1:39-44

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.



She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy.

Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled!

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



Homily for Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

Last week we celebrated Gaudete Sunday when the Church encouraged us to rejoice because our Lord is near. On this fourth and last Sunday of Advent, our first Reading and Gospel have one thing in common: that we need faith, obedience and humility to recognize how God is at work in our lives.

Today's Readings prepare us for the upcoming Feast of Christmas by bringing together the major themes of the first three Sundays of Advent, namely, promise, repentance, transformation and joy. They remind us that the mystery of the Incarnation comes to ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the openness to do God's will and the willingness to respond to God's call.

Today's Readings suggest that we should not celebrate Christmas as just an occasion for nice feelings. Instead, commemorating Jesus' birth should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect, loving obedience to his will, with the cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity that will help make us true disciples.

In the first Reading, the Prophet Micah insists that God chooses what is humanly insignificant and unpromising to bring about his own loving purposes. Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to his promises, and that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem, he will send them the long-expected ruler. He will restore order and harmony in the world by practicing and teaching submission to the will of God, "God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will."

In the light of the first Reading, this may be said to refer appropriately to Jesus Christ. Thus, we put ourselves in the position of ancient Israel waiting for the coming of the Messiah as we wait for the celebration of his coming at Christmas.

The second Reading, taken from the Letter to the Hebrews, reminds us that it is the Son of God and Son of Man, Jesus Christ, who has offered the perfect sacrifice of loving obedience that liberates mankind from sin. The Reading portrays the Son of God as accepting a human body, the true Christmas theme. It also gives the profound reason Jesus came into the world: "Behold, I come to do Your will." By a willing, loving eagerness to do God's will, Christ offered himself, replacing all the other ritual sacrifices and becoming the sole means of mankind's sanctification. This Reading reminds us that God, like any loving parent, wants us to do his will – for our good, not his.

In the Gospel, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. We see how sensitive Mary was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin, who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple. Through Mary's visit to Elizabeth, she displayed her hospitality, generosity, humility, and her love. This is why she is blessed.

The Church advises us that we need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did, and we can make a real difference to their lives by inviting them to know Jesus. However, we cannot give what we do not possess. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing his rebirth within us. Thus, Jesus enables us to share his love with all whom we encounter by offering them a humble, loving, committed service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate care. Sharing Jesus with others is the best Christmas gift we can give. God wants each of us, like Mary, to carry to those around us the Lord of Life.

It is easy to send flowers, Christmas cards or gifts. To give the gift of oneself, however, is the greatest gift of all. Let us take the time to visit others this Christmas, to bring some inspiration into their lives and, hopefully, to bring them closer to God. Let us share with them the Spirit of God, the Spirit of consolation, of courage, of peace, and of joy, just as Mary did. During the Christmas Season, God calls us into action as he did Mary. Is there anyone we know who is lonely, in a nursing home, ill, or bedridden? Can we help them with a brief visit? Is there extra food in our pantry that a poor family could use?

We need to recognize the real presence of the Emmanuel, **(God Is With Us)**, and say "yes" to him for the Visitation of Mary reminds us that Christ continues to be present among his people. Christ "dwells among us," exercising his Holy Ministry through our Ministerial Priests and Deacons, the Bible, the Sacraments, and in each of us in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our sanctuary. The same Jesus who dwelt in Mary's womb and caused John to leap in Elizabeth's womb now dwells among us in our liturgy and in the Holy Eucharist. Jesus has come! He lives with us and in us and through us, as we live through, with, and in him, by the Holy Spirit. What is expected of us during this Christmas week is the readiness to say "Yes!" to the Father, "Yes!" to Jesus, "Yes!" to the Holy Spirit, accepting everything that we will experience in the coming year as his gift and grace and "Yes!" to every call that God makes on us.

Mary's pilgrimage should be our model for as we journey with Mary to the hill country, let us continue to contemplate our own life's journey — its joys and sorrows, its triumphs and its tragedies. Our Christian journey began *in Christ* at the Baptismal font where he joined himself to us forever. Our journey continues *through Christ* as he nourishes us along the way with the Food of his Word and the Food of his Flesh in the Eucharist. It will end *with Christ* as we await our blessed end and join him and all his Saints in Heavenly splendor. It is up to us to prepare for that great day by spending our lives glorifying God in serving others with love and commitment.



PARISH NOTICES



Children's Choir Practice SFX
11:00am to 1:00pm: 24 December

SFX Nativity Drama

Children who are participating in the Nativity Drama on Tuesday, 24 December at 6.30pm, should arrive at the Church by 6:00pm

Sacramental Programme

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

Please visit or call the Parish Office on 9783 3484

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.

From today, 22nd day of December, 2024, Anointing of the Sick Mass, Adoration including 24 hour Adoration and Benediction is suspended until 31st January 2025.

Change of Mass & Communion Service Times 2nd January - 1st February 2025

SFX: Weekday Mass from Tuesday to Friday at 9:00am
Communion Service on Mondays at 9:00am
Saturday morning Mass and 10:00am Reconciliation
is suspended until 2 Feb, 2025.

SJE: Weekday Mass from Tuesday to Saturday at
10:00am
Communion Service on Mondays at 10:00am
Sunday Vigil Mass (Saturday evening) at 7:15pm

Fr Chinua will be on leave
between 26th December and 31st January, 2025.

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

Church Loan Repayment SFX

Target : \$120,000.00
Received to Date : \$7,250.00

Church Renovation SJE

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

Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp

SFX Church Parish Raffle Results

1st Prize Ed
2nd Prize Helen
3rd Prize Alana Ryan

Thank you for supporting the Raffle

Funds raised \$2,300.00 goes towards Loan Repayment

PAF Christmas Raffle Winners

1st Prize - Christmas Hamper - Michelle Dart
2nd Prize - \$100 Bunnings Voucher - Vicki Abbatangelo
3rd Prize - Christmas Cake & Bottle of Brandy -
Emmie Salcedo

If anyone is interested in volunteering at PAF, just a few hours per week, please call 9770 6226 or visit the Centre anytime for a chat.

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE FRANKSTON
www.pregnancyassistancefrankston.org.au

Results of Combined Parishes Car Raffle

1st prize Kia Picanto Holy Family Parish, Mt Waverly
2nd prize \$5K gift Geelong
3rd prize \$3K gift St Damian's Parish, Bundoora

Other prizes went to: Holy Family, Mt Waverley; Holy Trinity, East Bentleigh; St Simon's, Rowville; St Anthony's Noble Park.

Archbishop's Campaign Results held in July / August 2024

SFX : \$705.00 SJE: \$770.00

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Love

Scripture: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-2

Reflection

God's steadfast love and promises for every generation hold us as we face a world so troubled by hunger and poverty. We continue to seek God's righteousness and justice even when we do not understand where God is.

We cry, "Come, Lord Jesus, come."