



**World Day of Prayer asks us this year to pray for Suriname.**

**On Friday, 2 March - all Christians are invited to share in prayer and worship at High Street Uniting Church. Refreshments at 10.30am - Service at 11.00am All Welcome**

In 2018 that prayerful support will be directed at the 540,000 inhabitants of the Republic of Suriname, on the north-eastern coast of South America. Suriname is part of the Guianas, an ecological region within the Amazon. Despite a history steeped in slavery and political coups, this tiny nation has achieved remarkable progress since its independence in 1975. Suriname enjoys multi-ethnicity and biodiversity, freedom of religion, free primary and secondary education, and free medical care for children and seniors. But behind closed doors, family violence, abuse and neglect are ongoing issues. Children are particularly vulnerable, many growing up in orphanages or one-parent families. While education is free, there is no compulsory school attendance. Child labour in the form of street selling is common, but of far more serious concern is the fact that many children are labouring in the gold mines of Suriname.



**Legion of Mary - Lady of All Nations Prasesidium**

The Legion of Mary would like to invite you to have the statue of Our Lady of Fatima visit your home for a week to pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Please register your interest at the Piety Shop after Sunday Masses or contact Frances - 5971 1924



**St John's & St Francis Xavier's Parish Picnic - Sunday, 4 February**



**Memorials this week:**

- 21 March St Peter Damian
- 22 March The Chair of St Peter the Apostle
- 23 March St Polycarp

**Village Baxter Retirement Community**



Monthly Mass will now be located in The Lodge, South-East Lounge Room on the Fourth Thursday of each month at 11am. Everyone is Welcome!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Fundraising Mtg Feb 20
- Children's Mass Feb 25
- Lenten Retreat Feb. 28 - March 21
- Anointing Of Sick Mass Mar 1
- Parish Cuppa Mar 4
- Easter Reconciliation Mar 26

**Other Groups/Activities:**

- Friendship Club (Seniors)** - 1st Wednesday of month in the Xavier Centre at 10.30am. Bus trips on 3rd Thursday of month. Contact: Marie - 9775 8737
- Knitting Group** - Contact Yvonne - 5976 8480.
- PRAYER LINE:** Carolyn Gobel - 5971 3103
- St. Vincent de Paul Society** meets 1st & 3rd Mondays at 4.00pm in the Xavier Centre.
- Donations/Assistance:** 9769 6060
- Membership:** 0438 573 694; 9770 5570; 9783 3976
- Furniture Donations:** 1800 621 349

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR BULLETIN**

**Business & Tradespeople**

You are invited to advertise your business / trade in our Parish Weekly Bulletin, which reaches many homes. Rates are reasonable, for 6 or 12 monthly placements and can be of business card or smaller size. For more details. - Office 9783 3484

**MONTY'S CATERING SERVICE**  
 Serving you with only the finest cuisine.  
 For more information call: (03) 9791 7438  
 Marie-France Monty: 0433 434 694 Pierre Monty: 0417 342 219  
 Address: 17 Orgill St, Dandenong 3175. Fax (03) 9791 7438  
 Email: mariemonty@optusnet.com.au

**Next Sunday's Readings for Reflection**  
**1st Reading (JB) Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**  
**2nd Reading (JB) Romans 8:31-34**  
**Gospel (JB) Mark 9:2-10**



**St Francis Xavier Parish, Frankston**

60 Davey Street, Frankston 3199  
Tel: 9783 3484 Fax: 9783 2210  
Email: frankston@cam.org.au

Website: [www.cam.org.au/Frankston](http://www.cam.org.au/Frankston)

- Parish Priest** Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp, chinua.okeke@cam.org.au
- Assistant Parish Priest** Fr Jude Agorchukwu CSSp jude.agorchukwu@cam.org.au
- Honorary Associate:** Fr. Neil Fryer (Ordinariate OLSC)
- Secretaries:** Vicki Abbatangelo / Christina Williams
- Parish Schools:** St Augustine Principal Jan de Koning 9781 3007  
 St Francis Xavier Principal Colleen McGreal 9783 3424  
 John Paul College Principal John Visentin 9784 0200

**Sunday Masses**

Vigil Mass - Saturday Evening 6.00pm  
Sunday 8.30am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

**Weekday Masses**

Tuesday - Saturday 9.15 am  
Monday - 1<sup>st</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of month

**Liturgy of Word and Communion Service**

Monday - 9.15am  
2<sup>nd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays of month

**Anointing Mass**

9.15am First Thursday of month

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Adoration**

Wednesday 8.40am-9.10am  
Friday after 9.15am Mass - Not during Lent

**Rosary**

Wednesday after 9.15am Mass  
Before Mass Tuesday and Saturday

**Children's Liturgy**

Sunday during 10.30am Mass

**Legion of Mary**

Tuesday: 2pm in Quilter Room

**Charismatic Prayer Group**

Wednesday: 7.30pm in Chapel.

**In Recess until 21st February.**

**Divine Mercy**

Friday: 3pm in Chapel ( private prayer)

**Charismatic Prayer for Healing**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month: 5.15pm music, then Prayer for Healing after 5.30pm Mass:

**Teach, Preach, Reach (TPR), Adoration & Healing**

after 5.30pm Mass  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month

**Cell Groups**

Tuesday: 10.00am in Quilter Room  
Thursday: 7.30pm in Quilter Room

**Confessions**

Saturday: 10am - 10.30am,  
Saturday: 5.30pm - 5.50pm

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month during the Masses.  
(Saturday Evening Mass inclusive)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month at 11.30am  
(after the 10.30am Mass)

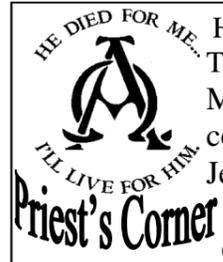
This Sunday's Readings: 1st Reading **Genesis 9:8-15** 2nd Reading **1 Peter 3:18-22**  
Resp .Psalm **Ps 24:4-9 R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

**Gospel Mark 1:12-15** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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





HOMILY FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B  
THEME: GOD OF THE COVENANT

My dear friends in Christ, I welcome you to the grace-filled time of Lent. Lent commemorates the forty days Jesus spent in the desert to prepare himself for his ministry. Jesus fasted and faced difficult challenges in the desert. However, he was enabled by the Holy Spirit to overcome the challenges by praying and remaining focused on the mission entrusted to him by the Father. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited during this period of Lent to have a pause and to beam the search light on the aspects of our lives that need spiritual ventilation. The ashes we received on Ash Wednesday underscored the urgency to have a change of heart.

Are you dishonest? Are you easily agitated? Are you at perpetual loggerhead with your siblings or spouse? Is your prayer life dusty? Do you find it very difficult to forgive others? Do you find it difficult to seek for forgiveness? Are you envious? Do you steal? Do you bear false witness against people? Are you loose with your tongue? Are you addicted to gambling or drugs? Are you an alcoholic? Lent is a time for a new beginning; it is a time for us to put God first again in our lives by avoiding vices and choosing virtue. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving should elicit a change of heart in us and help us to renew our baptismal covenant with God, for God is a covenantal God.

The first reading narrated the covenant God made with Noah and his descendants. Noah's family in this account represented the whole of humanity. For these were the known survivors after a devastating flood that almost wiped out the whole of humanity. In this episode, God showed himself as the covenantal God who is willing to condescend to the level of humanity in order to be in a relationship with us. He protects and sustains us.

God later made a covenant with Abraham the patriarch of the Jews, and our father in faith. When the Jews arrived in Mount Sinai after their exile in Egypt, God entered into another covenant with them. The people of Israel were to be a priestly nation, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to worship God - if only they kept the commandments of God. The people of Israel promised to follow God's commandments when they said to Moses, "all that God had said, we will do, (Ex 19:8). This covenant which was sealed with the blood of the bulls, (Ex 24:1-8), was broken by the people of Israel several times.

God through prophet Jeremiah promised a new covenant that he would make with the whole of humanity, (Jer 31:31-34). That new covenant was sealed in Christ through his life, death and resurrection. The second reading reminded us that Noah went through a form of baptism when he was saved, from the flood, with the help of an ark. Jesus after his resurrection had commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We become members of the new covenant in Christ through our baptism.

In the Gospel of today Jesus was tempted by Satan, but he did not succumb to the whims of Satan. We also in our baptism promised to reject Satan and sin and to acknowledge and worship the only one true God.

We know that we do falter from our baptismal promises. Sometimes we fall into the trap of the evil one. Lent calls us to repentance. On this first Sunday of Lent, I invite you to re-commit yourselves to your baptismal promises by committing yourselves to a Lenten plan. Choose an aspect of your life that you hope to work on during this time of Lent, or a cause you wish to commit yourself to during this Lenten season. I pray that the Lord of the covenant will grant you a grace of renewal during this Lenten period, so that you will rise with Jesus at Easter!

*Fr Chinua Okeke CSSp*

**We pray** with loving and trustful hearts for Michael Grogan, Adrian Gobel, Kevin Churchill, Jan Buckner, Helen Boundy, Graeme Purdon, Gloria Resubal, and for all our Parishioners, friends and family who are not doing so well at this time, that they will recognize the hand of our Merciful and Loving God in difficult times.

**We pray** for our recently departed family and friends: especially Ronaldo C. Manalo and we remember those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Jim Pilsbury, Giuseppe Biviano, Anne Moles, Patrick Flynn, A.J. George Angilivelil, Fernando Santos, Elaine Puzka and Thomas Bailey - may they rest in peace in God's heavenly kingdom.



During Lent :

Weekdays

1. Adoration and Benediction will be offered after 9.15am Mass on Tuesdays.

2. Evening Mass: Wednesday at 7pm.

3. Stations of the Cross will be offered after 9.15am Mass on Friday - commencing 16th February.

Alternatively: St John's Parish Fridays 7pm  
20 Coral St, Frankston East

Sundays

1st Sunday in Lent Commitment Sunday

2nd Sunday in Lent Benediction/Adoration after Masses

3rd Sunday in Lent Renewal Sunday

4th Sunday in Lent Anointing of the Sick

5th Sunday in Lent Outreach Sunday

**LENTEN RETREAT**

**How long has it been since you have attended a Retreat in your Parish?**

**The Live Christ Share Christ Movement supported by St Francis Xavier Parish cordially invites you to attend "A LIFE IN CHRIST LENTEN RETREAT", a 5 session seminar where we can Meet Christ, Live Christ and Share Christ! Everyone is welcome - singles, engaged/ married couples, widows, divorced or separated.**

**The Life in Christ Seminar will be held at St Francis Xavier Church, 60 Davey Street, Frankston, Wednesday nights - 28 February, 7, 14 & 21 March from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be provided. Save these dates for a spiritual experience to complement the Lenten season! Sign up sheets in Church foyer this weekend.**

**Project Compassion**

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "A Just Future". You will be empowering young people to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by phoning 1800 024 413 or visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion).



If you are interested in taking Holy Communion to house-bound parishioners (home visits) once a month.

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

# Meeting

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

There will be fund raising meeting on Tuesday  
20th February at 7pm in Quilter Room  
All Welcome

**For Your Interest and Diaries**

St Francis Xavier - Frankston

- **Legion of Mary Meeting:** New Day: Tuesday will start on 13th February in Quilter Room at 2pm.
- **Charismatic Prayer Group resumes** Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm in Chapel. All Welcome.

Syro Malabar

Regular services

Every Thursday night - 6pm Mass

First Sunday of month - 4pm Mass

During Lent

Every Friday night - 6pm Stations of the Cross

External

♦ menALIVE Weekend for Men.

A menALIVE Weekend conducted by experienced leaders will be held at St Joseph's Chelsea on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of March. Come along and be inspired, encouraged and rediscover God's purpose for your life. Enquiries, phone Mike Shaw (0418 122 966),

- ♦ Southern Stars Social Club Over 28's Party Night for Single Catholics in 28 to 60 age group. 24th February at 8pm. Contact peter 9885 2167

- ♦ LOCAL RADIO: Every Sunday morning at 8am Peninsula Radio Rpp 98.7fm (98.3 fm Frankston) presents THE CATHOLIC HOUR free to air. Contact Maureen Federico on 0410 524 338.

Sunday Collection 11.02.2018

Thanksgiving Offering-Pledged  
Church \$ 903 Presbytery \$ 500 Please ensure you write your dollar amounts on each side of the envelopes. **Thank You**

**Parish Cells Groups**

Are you looking for a way to deepen your relationship with Jesus?

Contact the Parish Office for more details

**New comers / notification**

Welcome and thanks for worshipping with us at St Francis Xavier. If you are new to the parish or have changed your home address or need Thanksgiving Envelopes, please fill in your details and drop it in the collection bag or give to the priest.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

New  Change of Address

I would like Thanksgiving Envelopes