



Dear Friends,

Lent is a time for 'Spring cleaning' in our souls. We move the furniture in our life, take down the curtains, wash the windows and create space by removing what clutters our daily lives. It is not just a matter of getting rid of mess. It is rearranging things, finding ways to create more room, a better space. We see ourselves differently and make more room for God.

During the holy season of Lent we open our hearts and minds to a fresh, deeper, fuller awareness of God within us, around us: a deeper awareness of God's will for us. We are each called to spend extra time in prayer and to confess our sins honestly to Christ in the Sacrament of Penance.

Lent reminds us forcefully that we will be judged at our death and must give an account of our life.

Yet death is such a taboo subject in our culture. Some treat it as a 'problem' that can be 'solved' and legislated about. But Lent reminds us we must ponder deeply its stark reality.

During our life on earth we struggle to protect our future with bank accounts, credit cards and investments. We protect the future with health plans, life insurance, social security and retirement plans. There is nothing wrong with that. But the statistic on death has not changed. It is still one per person.

There comes a moment when no amount of cash or plastic or investment protects us. We die. No human support goes with us to the grave. Human companionship stops at the tomb, and we enter alone, except that the Lord goes with us. Because of his dying and rising to new life, the Lord is with us at death, through death, and takes us to the other side to share in the transformed life which God has prepared for us.

This is why we could wear ashes on our forehead for four weeks and say "dust to dust" without being morbid. We were entering into the dying and rising of Christ.

So this Lent please fast, pray, and give alms. When we reduce our intake of food we discover what it is like for so many in our world to go hungry all day. We reflect more deeply about life... and death. When we pray more intensely, our mind opens up to wider horizons. When we give things away and support Project Compassion, we create more space in our lives, more room for God, and we realise how much we depend on God ...

And during this Lent of 2018 we have a special duty. At every Mass we pray 'through my fault, through my most grievous fault', and the recent Royal Commission has indeed highlighted the evil and sins that have done so much damage to children, families and all of the Body of Christ.

I urge each of you this Lent and beyond to pray and act for healing for all victims. I commit our Church once again to the sacred vocation of ensuring such terrible evils are never again inflicted on Christ's 'little ones'.

Yes, let us pray for the grace of repentance. Christ's message is demanding, but let us never forget, it is our Good News and salvation! Listen to Christ Jesus as he cries out to each of our hearts, this Lent 2018:

Do not be greedy. Be lavish in giving your goods to others. Live the generosity of God.  
Do not be violent. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.  
Do not be spiteful. Be merciful as your heavenly father is merciful.  
Do not be frightened. I am with you all days, even to the end of time.  
Come to me all you who find life weary and burdensome, and I will refresh you.

As we prepare to celebrate the Sacred Triduum - the dying and rising of Christ ... and our dying and rising with him ... let us all: "Repent and believe the good news!"

+ Denis J Hart Denis J Hart ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



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2018  
11th February

THE SIXTH  
SUNDAY OF  
YEAR B

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

Rosary

Wednesday after 9.15am Mass  
Before Mass Tuesday and Saturday

Children's Liturgy

Sunday during 10.30am Mass

Legion of Mary

Friday: 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: In Recess until 18th February.

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 **Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46** 2nd Reading **1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1**  
Resp .Psalm **Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11** R. **I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Gospel Mark 1:40-45 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.



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

Village Baxter Retirement Community HOLY COMMUNION  
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!

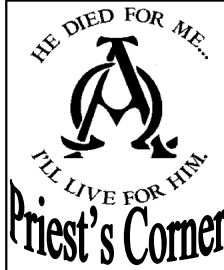
It is not too late to attend tomorrow's Legion Of Mary Summer School - see Flyer in Church Foyer

UPCOMING EVENTS  
Queen's Baton Relay Feb 11  
Ash Wednesday Feb 14  
Masses 9.15am & 7pm  
Lenten Retreat Feb 28 - Mar 21

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 9:8-15**  
2nd Reading (JB) **1 Peter 3:18-22**  
Gospel (JB) **Mark 1:12-15**



**HOMILY FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

Leprosy also known as Hansen’s Disease, was a dreaded disease in the ancient world. It was dreaded because it was a contagious and dehumanising disease and with poor knowledge on how it was transmitted from one patient to another, the people of Israel took a precautionary measure by isolating all those infected by the disease in a deserted place, outside of the Israeli towns and villages. The person suffering from leprosy was considered unclean; that is, defiled, and hence, debarred from participating in any family or community activities such as family meals and community worship.

A leprosy person must always look haggard by wearing torn clothes and have unkempt hair. If the leper happens to wander into a town or village, he must continuously ring a bell and cover his upper lips and shout ‘unclean’. The bell and the shout were to alert passers-by, so that they may avoid the leper. Hence, to suffer from leprosy was like being sent to hell while still on earth.

Leprosy was also loathed because it was considered as a divine punishment for sins. In 2Kings 5:25-27, Gehazi, Prophet Elisha’s servant, was infected with leprosy because he went behind Elisha’s back to collect some gifts from Naaman, (the Syrian general), who had been cured of leprosy through the mediation of Elisha. When Elisha confronted him about what he did, he lied about it.

The second reading, (1Cor 10:31 - 11:1), reminds us of the motive that should pervade all we do or say. It stated that, “Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.” The glory of God must be the fulcrum around which our actions revolve. It invited us not to do anything that was offensive to anyone. Thus, we have to extend a caring and loving hand to our sisters and brothers in need.

In the Gospel, (Mk 1:40-45), a leper came up to Jesus and pleaded with him to cure him. His plea, “If you want to” was an act of faith and a cry from the heart; a recognition that it was the Lord that would restore him to wholeness. In search of this wholeness, the leper broke the taboo that was imposed on him, not to communicate with the members of the community, until he has been declared cured by a priest.

The Gospel narrated that Jesus felt compassion for him and stretched his hand and touched him. In touching him, Jesus also broke the barrier that alienated the leper from the community. In touching the leper, Jesus is teaching the people that it was not a physical contact with a leprosy person that would defile them. Defilement is caused by sin, that is, a rejection of God or the breaking of God’s commandments. “Indeed, it is from the heart that evil desires come – murder, adultery, immorality, theft, lies, slander. These are the things that make a person unclean,” (Mt 15:19-20).

Jesus in touching the leprosy man, imparted wholeness on him – physical, spiritual and emotional. He then instructed him to go and show himself to the priest so that he may be rehabilitated into the wider community.

After the cure of the leprosy person, Jesus ordered him not to broadcast the cure, because he did not want people to have an unrealistic expectation about his messiahship. Jesus was not merely a wonder worker or a revolutionary who had come to overthrow the reign of the Romans. His messiahship is only fully understood in the context of the cross. Any confession about Jesus that does not take account of his death on the cross is grossly inadequate. It was at his death on the cross that a soldier confessed that, “truly, this was the Son of God,” (Mk 15:39).

Before I conclude this homily, I would like to invite you to reflect on the lives of people who work with those who have been infected with infectious diseases and who at times are infected by the disease. Father Damien or Saint Damien of Molokai, SS.CC. comes to mind; our attention also goes to doctors, nurses and laboratory technicians. We recall that during the recent Ebola outbreak, some of those, (including health personnel) who put themselves in harm’s way to help the sick became infected by the virus.

The Gospel narrated that after Jesus had healed the leper, the healed person went about, talking about it freely that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town or village but had to stay outside the camp. However, people thronged to see him there. From this, we learn that doing good may take a toll on us, but we must not give up because it is the right thing to do.

*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 George Dalton and we remember those whose anniversary occurs at this time: Gregory Keecher, Lynette Luca, Janice “Jan” Chester, Selwyn & Sheila Boucher, Wally Beasley, Maria & Francesco Torcaso, Raymonde Bailey, Emiliana & Victoriano Ponce, Peter Crowe, and Angelo Reyes - may they rest in peace in God’s heavenly kingdom.

**ASH WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2018**

Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

Masses: **9.15am & 7.00pm** St. Francis Xavier Church  
2.00pm at St Augustine’s Primary School Hall

*Mass, Adoration and Benediction for Children who were abused by Church Personnel: 15th February Thursday Morning Mass - 9.15-10.15 am*

**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.**



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”.

**A Meeting for the MONEY COUNTERS** will be held next Tuesday 13th February at 10am in Barbeta Room

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE**

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



**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 for Healing resumes** Sunday 18 February at 5.30pm. Personal prayer ministry for healing will be available at the conclusion of the Mass. Praise and Worship begins at 5.15pm.
- **Charismatic Prayer Group resumes** Wednesday 21 February at 7.30pm in Chapel. All Welcome.
- **Tuesday Cell** will re-group on February 13th in Quilter room after 9. 15 am Mass. The aim of this group is to grow in our faith and knowledge of Christs Messages , especially the development of loving Him in our neighbour ie our brothers and sisters in Christ. It is about the reading of the Gospels and its interpretation and our understanding as lay people. All welcome.
- **SVdP Mornington** will hold a Musical Concert fundraising event on Sunday 18th February at 2pm in our Xavier Centre. Proceeds will go to help the less fortunate in the Mornington Community. Contact Elvira on 5974 2607

**Syro Malabar**

Every Thursday night - 6pm Mass  
First Sunday of month - 4pm Mass

**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),

**Sunday Collection 04.02.2018**

Thanksgiving Offering-Pledged Church \$ 2579- Presbytery \$ 1007 Please ensure you write your dollar amounts on each side of the envelopes. **Thank You**

**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