

St Francis Xavier and St Clare

In the care of the Franciscans since 1975 and 1998.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) ~ 3rd July 2011

From the prophet Zechariah

Zec 9:9-10

The Lord says this: 'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsory (All)

Ps 144:1f

I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down.

From the Letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (All)

Cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Entrance *Within your temple, we ponder your loving kindness, O God. As your name, so also your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with justice.*

Acclamation *When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.*

Communion *Taste and see the goodness of the Lord; blessed is the one who hopes in God.*

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

1087 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128
Telephone 9890 2231
Facsimile 9898 4392
email: sfbh@celestial.com.au
www.scsfx.org.au

SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL 9890 1108
www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au

PARISH OF ST CLARE

138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone 9898 5080
email: sfbh@celestial.com.au

FRIARS OF THE PARISHES

PARISH PRIEST
FR PETER McGRATH OFM

ASSISTANT PRIESTS
FR BOB MATTHEWS OFM
FR PETER TRAN OFM

Pastoral Associate/Assistant—

SFX Parish Office Hours:
9.30 am to 4.30 pm
Monday, Wed, Thurs, Friday
Parish Secretary— Monique Waring

St Clare's Parish Office Hours:
Wednesday & Friday
9.00 am—10.30 am
Parish Secretary—Dianna Hardy

LITURGY TIMES

St Clare's
Sunday 9.00 am
Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 am
Confessions: Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's
Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 8.00 am
10.00am
(Italian) 11.30 am
5.00 pm
Mon—Fri 12 noon
Confessions:
Saturday 4.00 pm—5.00 pm

MARRIAGES

Bookings can be made with SFX Parish Office for each Parish, and celebrated in the church requested. This is to avoid double bookings.

BAPTISMS

Anyone wishing to have a child baptised should give four to six weeks notice, so that the family can be visited & parents can attend a preparation course.

St Francis Xavier's—
1st and 3rd Sundays of month only,
12.30 pm
St Clare's—2nd Sunday, 10.30 am

Before I said my first Mass an old priest gave me two great pieces of advice.

'You know when the congregation is filled with optimists. After a long series of announcements at the end of Mass and then you say, "and finally..." people take out their car keys!'

The second was, 'Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.'

I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace.

Now all this 'come and rest a while' talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality.

Today's Gospel, however, came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus' death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens.

They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ.

No wonder they held so strongly to the words, 'Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' And they found consolation in Jesus' example, 'take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.'

Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it.

Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and this parish Community, as with every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile.

What we celebrate here each Sunday is that God will have the last word, a just, joyous, loving and peaceful word, in this world and when we enter our final rest.

Jesus didn't come to us as a divine magician, waving a wand over our problems to wipe away all our tears. Rather, he accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life's burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties.

This type of spiritual sanity reminds me of the story of the nun who was teaching the communion class, and drew an analogy about how food is essential to life. She asked the class,

'What's small and furry and eats nuts?'

To which there was bemused silence.

So Sister tried again.

'What's small and furry and eats nuts?'

There was now stony silence. Sister then picked out Billy and asked him for the answer. After several awkward moments, Billy tentatively replied,

'Sister, I know the answer is supposed to be Jesus, because the answer to all your questions is always Jesus but, I have to tell you, it sounds like a bloody squirrel to me.'

Sometimes the answer is not simply 'Jesus'. As we all know, for some of our difficulties, there is no spiritual quick fix. There is no cheap grace. The answer is not simply Jesus.

In confronting issues, however, it is necessary for spiritual and mental health to take time out, to be as gentle with ourselves as possible, to know that the burden of life is shared so that we can make the decisions that will ease the situation.

I don't underestimate the burdens some of you have walked into this church with today. Whatever burden you may have brought with you, may you know a moment's rest, the companionship of fellow travellers and the gift of Christ's peace.

by Richard Leonard SJ

We pray for those recently deceased; ; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Daisy Reid, Dorothy Lark; and the sick of our Parish: Dolores Kerwin, Glen & Dot Boyd, Ivan Mahlstedt, Wal & Jess Burrows.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK -

MON: GEN 28:10-22; MT 9:18-26;
TUES: GEN 32:23-33; MT 9:32-38;
WED: GEN 41:55-57, 42:5-7,17-24;
THURS: GEN 44:18-21, 23-29, 45:1-5; MT 10:7-15;
FRI: GEN 46:1-7, 28-30; MT 10:16-23;
SAT: GEN: 49:29-33, 50:15-26; MT 10:24-33
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
ISAIAH 55:10-11; ROMANS 8:18-23; MATTHEW 13:1-23

SUNDAY 3 JULY	12.30PM	ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY 4 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 4 JULY	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
TUESDAY 5 JULY	12.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 6 JULY	8.30AM 12.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) HOW THE PRIESTHOOD EVOLVED, PARISH HALL (SEE BELOW)
THURSDAY 7 JULY	7.30PM	PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 8 JULY	7.30PM	BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 9 JULY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 10 JULY	10.30AM	1 BAPTISM AT ST CLARE'S

THANK YOU

The Curtin & Greenway families sincerely thank the Friars and all parishioners for their prayers, concern and support during Robyn's illness and death.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." - Matthew 11:30

When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God asks too much of us by asking us to generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, the yoke of stewardship is not heavy. Good stewards learn that by turning away from the materialism of the world, we can experience great joy in spending more time with God and sharing more of our gifts with others.

THE EUCHARIST

A Series of Six Talks to be presented by Sandra Bishop, commence on Monday 18th July at 10.30am at St Clare's Hall. Francis/Clare Charismatic Prayer Community invite all parishioners & friends. Cost \$20. Full details next week.

FIRST FRIDAY COLLECTION

Thank you to all who contributed to the First Friday Collection in June—\$175.90 was the total, for the Sacred Heart School in Sideia, PNG.

The Parishes of St Francis Xavier & St Clare

Social Justice Group

At a well attended meeting held at the Parish Hall the above group was inaugurated To work in the area of Social Justice in the parish.

IF YOU WANTED TO PARTICIPATE BUT MISSED THE MEETING PLEASE CONTACT

President Maurice Ferdinando Tel: 8812 2079
OR

Secretary Frank Colletla Tel: 0404 157 351
WE stand for a fair go for all the people of God

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

STARTING SOON..... NEW RCIA 2011-2012

- ✦ Have you invited anyone to look into Catholic Church teachings?
- ✦ Of course you would accompany anyone as they begin.
- ✦ Have you a little time to be a supporter of enquirers?
- ✦ Once a week (1½ hours).
- ✦ Phone the Parish Office or speak to one of the friars ASAP!!!

How the Priesthood Evolved

A 3-part series on the priesthood from the early church when there were no priests to the present day.

The presentations will include the very many changes that have occurred over the centuries, the priesthood of the faithful, and the ministry of women in the church.

The series will be given with slides by Fr Frank O'Dea of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation. Questions and comments will be encouraged. The presentations will be given on 3 Wednesday afternoons following the 12.00 mass.

6th, 13th and 20th July
from 12.30 till 2.00 pm
St Francis Xavier Parish Hall
No charge.

Have an early lunch or bring a sandwich to eat during the break. For further information, ring Fr Frank on 9898 9294 or email fod@bessedsacrament.com.au

For venue or logistical information
Phone Maurice Ferdinando on 8812 2079

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM ASSISTANT REQUIRED

Commencing Term 3 2011. Before & After School Care.

[Certificate III Childcare or Working Towards]

Please send resume to:

OSHC program, St Francis Xavier Parish,
1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128.

or email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au
Applications close FRIDAY 15TH JULY.

The **KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS** advise the results of the recent raffle draw were:
1st: Ticket 15735 Tom Maclan
(sold by Wodonga Branch)
2nd: Ticket 33948 Peter Wouter
3rd: Ticket 33849 G.A. Edwards
Thanks to all who supported this effort.
Regards Frank Kenna Secretary.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—July 10

Ministers of Communion

6.00pm G Machado, J Hickey,
J Morison, M O'Brien,
T D'Andrea
8.00am M Rossely
10.00am A Leonard, E&E VDW,
M Blundy, M Hughes,
N Succar, W Tan

5.00pm A Large, MT Franciso

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm S Hengeveld, M Williamsz
8.00am C Gately
10.00am J Tan, AM Diggins
5.00pm T Parker, J O'Brien

Welcomers

6.00pm E Casteletti, L Lampard
8.00am J Reid
10.00am A Galli, E&E VDW
5.00pm J Dominic

Altar Linen

July 3 P Fitzgerald
July 10 L Chin

Counters

July 3 L&B Cohen
July 10 P Eng & H H Yeoh

Rosary Statue

July 3—F&G Machado, 255 Union Rd, SH
July 10—La Family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 3 R Bidinost
July 10 J Adamo

Lettori

July 3 V Peluso, M Salamone
July 10 A D'Alessandro, L Ferola

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 3 G Tabacchiera, D Amato
July 10 G Massarotti, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S—July 10

Ministers of the Word

M Hardy, A McGovern, C Hardy

Ministers of Communion

D Hardy, I D'Amato, J Murphy, T Shallvey,
A Kennedy, P Wolbers, D Wolbers

Welcomers—July 10

A La Scala, I Abiad

Piety Stall—July 10

B Murphy

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pat Cleary Peter Leonard
Breta Cohen John O'Brien
Ann-Marie Diggins Annie Setiawan
Jane D'Souza Dianna Hardy
Maurice Ferdinando Carmel Purdey
Anthony Kennedy Monique Waring
(ex-officio)

Next meeting : 7 July 2011

This newsletter is also
available on our website:
www.scfx.org.au

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St Francis Xavier's & St Clare's parishes, seek to live Christ-centred lives, celebrating God's presence & our faith values through worship, outreach, service, justice & hospitality.