

St Francis Xavier and St Clare

In the care of the Franciscans since 1975 and 1998.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) ~ 10 July 2011

From the prophet Isaiah

Is 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.' The word of the Lord.

Responsory (All)

Ps 64:10f

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (All)

Cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' The Gospel of the Lord.

Entrance *In my justice I shall see your face, O Lord; when your glory appears, my joy will be full.*

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

Communion *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will live in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

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
Sr MOIRA BRODERICK CSB

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: Sat 4.00—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

A newcomer to a city known for its wind and rain arrives on a rainy day. She gets up the next day and it's raining. It also rains the day after that, and the day after that. She goes out to lunch and sees a young child and, out of despair, asks, 'Hey, kid, does it ever stop raining around here?' To which the child replies, 'How should I know? I'm only six.'

With the three readings we have just heard, we could easily celebrate Environment Sunday today. Rain, snow, seeds, sowers, fertile soil and a labouring creation giving birth to the fruits of the Spirit, are all rich ground upon which we can reflect on the importance of our earth's ecology.

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit.

If this means we must limit our consumption, change our priorities in regard to energy and trade and show the third world the way in developing eco-friendly industries, then all the better for us. Most of us know that we cannot keep going as we are, with ever increasing unsustainable demands on our planet. There is no point any of us crying over the demise of our environment in the future, if we are doing nothing to help it now.

Every small thing we do from being conscious of the issues, to recycling and using our cars less, is not unimportant. Some of us are in positions to do a lot more than these things as well and we should take our Christian responsibilities in this regard very seriously.

One creative reading of today's Gospel is that it parallels how we can respond to the news of the degradation of the environment.

For some of us the facts and figures about the planet's ecosystem fall on rocky ground. We are not receptive to hearing anything that might demand a change in our lifestyle or a lessening of our comfort.

For others of us, recent debates fall among the thorns. Competing with other issues for our attention and action, the plight of the earth is not able to take root in our consciousness or sympathies. We think it can all wait for another generation who will have the ability to fix the problems then.

For some of us, however, recent surveys and our own sense of environmental changes means that what experts are saying falls on fertile soil. We want to do whatever we can to see that the earth continues to bear fruit for as many generations as God intends.

The Old and New Testaments are filled with the importance of our relationships to the earth. In the book of Genesis humanity is told to care for and subdue the earth, not wreck it. We cannot be irresponsible about the world's finite resources in the hope that we will find solutions in the future. Avarice is not one of the seven deadly sins for nothing.

We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.

Richard Leonard SJ

We offer a warm welcome to the parishes of Box and Box Hill North to Sr Moira Broderick csb who is taking up the position of Pastoral Associate this week. Sr Moira is looking forward to meeting our parishioners.



We pray for those recently deceased:

those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Brian Wells, Robert Oswald
and the sick of our Parish: Elizabeth McLean, Gino Silvestri, John Jesse, Dolores Kerwin, Glen & Dot Boyd, Ivan Mahlstedt, Wal & Jess Burrows.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK -

MON: EX 1:8-14, 22; MT 10:34-11:1 (ST BENEDICT)
TUES: EX 2:1-15; MT 11:20-24
WED: EX 3:1-6, 9-12; MT 11:25-27
THURS: EX 3:13-20; MT 11:28-30
FRI: EX 11:10 - 12:14; MT 12:1-8 (ST BONAVENTURE)
SAT: EX 12:37-42; MT 12:14-21
16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
WIS 12:13, 16-19; ROM 8:26-27; MT 13:24-43

SUNDAY 10 JULY	10.30AM	1 BAPTISM AT ST CLARE'S
MONDAY 11 JULY	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
	10.30AM	FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: EUCHARIST IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION IN OLD TESTAMENT (BELOW)
TUESDAY 12 JULY	12.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 13 JULY	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)
	12.30PM	HOW THE PRIESTHOOD EVOLVED, PARISH HALL (SEE BELOW)
THURSDAY 14 JULY		
FRIDAY 15 JULY	7.30PM	BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 16 JULY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 17 JULY	12.30PM	2 BAPTISMS AT SFX

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit." - Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities and anxieties that you have no time for God? These are questions that we all must ask of ourselves if we are going to live as God's stewards.

The Parishes of St Francis Xavier & St Clare

Social Justice Group

Next meeting on

SUNDAY 17TH JULY

11:15 to 12:15

(after 10.00am Mass)

At the PARISH MEETING ROOM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Frank Cotela (Secretary)

Tel: 0404 157 351

Email: fcotela@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

WE stand for a fair go

for all the people of God

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. This week: Eucharist in God's Plan of Salvation in Old Testament. Francis/Clare Charismatic Prayer Community invite all parishioners & friends. Cost \$20. Full details attached.

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@blessedsacrament.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.

FR PETER CLIFFORD OFM

Parishioners may be interested to note that Fr Peter Clifford ofm, Parish Priest at SFX from 1981-1986, will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood on 15th July this year.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—July 17

Ministers of Communion

6.00pm D Williamsz, L Lampard,
N Succar, R Meyers,
V Bellis

8.00am J Reid

10.00am C Chin, V&G Mooney,
J D'Souza, K de Lacy,
M Ferdinando, M Sinclair

5.00pm A Large, MT Francisco

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm J Wells, M Rossely

8.00am B Reid

10.00am K Kirwan, P Fitzgerald

5.00pm M Slevison, H Miller

Welcomers

6.00pm D Paes, L Lampard

8.00am J Reid

10.00am J Dominic, S Liew

5.00pm M Plain

Altar Linen

July 10 L Chin

July 17 I Balchin

Counters

July 10 P Eng & H H Yeoh

July 17 R&Y Roy

Rosary Statue

July 10—La Family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

July 17—La Family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 10 J Adamo

July 17 P Grech

Lettori

July 10 A D'Alessandro, L Ferola

July 17 M Salamone, D Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 10 G Massarotti, R Bidinost

July 17 D Amato, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—July 17

Ministers of the Word

A McGovern, M Clark, C Abiad

Ministers of Communion

D Tan, P Cleary, P Ciccotosto, E Lim,

P O'Brien, A Kennedy, H Keown

Welcomers—July 17

M Boulton, P Cleary

Piety Stall—July 17

Farry family

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 : 4 August 2011

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

**NEW THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPES & RECEIPTS
ARE AVAILABLE IN BOTH
CHURCHES. IF YOU PAY
BY CREDIT CARD OR
DIRECT DEBIT, PLEASE
ALSO COLLECT YOUR
RECEIPT TODAY.**

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.