

St Francis Xavier and St Clare

In the care of the Franciscans since 1975 and 1998.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A ~ 17 July 2011

From the book of Wisdom

Wis 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance. The word of the Lord.

Responsory (All)

Ps 85:5f

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice.

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God.

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God. 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 13:24-33

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'" The Gospel of the Lord.

Entrance God himself is my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will offer you a willing sacrifice;
I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.

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

Communion I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door,
I will come in and sit down to supper with them, and they with me.

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

1087 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128
Telephone 9890 2231
Facsimile 9898 4392
email: sfxbh@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: sfxbh@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

Today's Gospel gives us both a parable and then an interpretation of that parable. I'm very grateful for this pattern in the 13th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. It indicates to us that not everything that Jesus says should be taken literally. Clearly the disciples were sometimes confused and needed some private coaching to bring them up to speed with what Jesus was on about.

As much as I respect the faith of our fundamentalist Christian brothers and sisters, it is at this point, on the way we interpret the Scriptures, that we cannot agree. The catholic community has always taken the process outlined in Matthew's gospel very seriously. We have always held that the full richness of the scriptures needs careful study and tested interpretations.

Unfortunately, in previous generations, the anxiety over people's private interpretations of the scriptures led Catholics to be suspicious of the Bible and the private reading of it. To read the Bible was often seen as a 'very protestant thing to do'. Given that Jesus, Mary, the apostles and the disciples are all recorded in the New Testament as reading, meditating on, or hearing the scriptures, nothing could be further from the truth. To be a Christian is to ponder the Word of God.

That's why the Second Vatican Council encouraged us all to return to regular private reflection on the Bible. Along with this encouragement they also reminded us, however, that as strong as the feelings and revelations we experience in our private scriptural prayer may be, these may have little or no consequence for the wider community of faith. We believe that the whole Church has the task to discern where the Word of God is leading us.

To help this discernment, it's scholars who pay great attention to the history and the literary, textual and cultural issues in and around the Bible have always aided the catholic community. They look at how various interpretations and approaches of the Scriptures have helped or hindered the Church over the centuries. We place great weight on the 'here and now' of the faith community who listens to the Word of God and lives it out.

Our approach is a long way from those who hold that the entire truth of the scriptures is found in the text itself. Fundamentalist interpretations of the scriptures dismiss the importance of studying the scriptures by reducing it to a book of facts. In doing so they tie themselves up in all sorts of textual knots whenever the scriptures seem to contradict themselves.

We hold, however, that the scriptures are not books of facts, though they contain historical information. We believe we have seventy-three sacred books that 'cannot err in leading us to the truth about God'. The Word of God is for us the pathway to faith, a series of revealed and inspired portraits of God and a distillation of God's saving love for us and our response to him.

When there are inconsistencies or differences in any two scriptural texts, rather than unsettle us, we see these differences as examples of the varying rich approaches to the truth of our salvation in and through Christ. This is nicely summed up in the verse, *The Bible in 50 words*.

God made/Adam bit/Noah arked/Abraham split/Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled/Bush talked/Moses balked/Pharaoh plagued/People walked
Sea divided/Tablets guided/Promise landed/Saul freaked/David peeked
Prophets warned/Jesus born/God walked/Love talked/Anger crucified
Hope died/Love rose/Spirit flamed/Word spread/God remained.

At this Eucharist let's give thanks that Jesus often used stories to communicate his truth and that he explained their meaning to those with ears to hear. Let's be grateful that we are inheritors of this intelligent legacy.

Richard Leonard SJ



SFX Church plans are available to look at on tables at the doors of the church. There will be a public meeting in SFX Hall after the 10am Mass on Sunday 24th July when the changes will be explained to parishioners.

We pray for those recently deceased:

Lucy Comrie;
those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Winifred Brice, Joan Phillips, Anthony Saliba, Caterina Calabro, Mary Kiely, Giuseppe Balasso, Amelia Santos;
and the sick of our Parish: *Alex Peterson, Elizabeth McLean, Gino Silvestri, John Jesse, Dolores Kerwin.*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK -

MON: EX 14:5-18; MT 12:38-42
TUES: EX 14:21 - 15:1; MT 12:46-50
WED: EX 16:1-5, 9-15; MT 13:1-9
THURS: EX 19: 1-2, 9-11, 16-20; MT 13:10-17
FRI: (ST MARY MAGDALENE)
(SONG 3:1-4 OR 2 COR 5:14-17); JN 20:1-2, 11-18
SAT: EX 24:3-8; MT 13:24-30
17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 KG 3:5,7-12; ROM 8:28-30; MT 13:44-52

SUNDAY 17 JULY	11.15AM 12.30PM	SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP IN SFX MEETING ROOM 2 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 18 JULY	8.30AM 10.30AM 4.00PM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: EUCHARIST IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION IN NEW TESTAMENT (BELOW) CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
TUESDAY 19 JULY	12.30PM 3.00-3.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) PARISH PRAYER GROUP IN SFX CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 20 JULY	8.30AM 12.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) HOW THE PRIESTHOOD EVOLVED, PARISH HALL (SEE BELOW)
THURSDAY 21 JULY		AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—BINGO (SEE BELOW)
FRIDAY 22 JULY	9.00-11.00AM 7.30PM	PLAYGROUP AT SFX (CLASSROOM NEXT TO OLD LIBRARY) BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 23 JULY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 24 JULY - AFTER 10AM MASS		PUBLIC MEETING RE PLANS OF CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom." - Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all "good seeds," blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in this world. We fulfill God's plan for us when we share our unique talents and our financial gifts to build up God's kingdom. Through our stewardship we blossom!

The Parishes of St Francis Xavier & St Clare

Social Justice Group

Next meeting on

TODAY 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

Eucharist in God's Plan of Salvation in Old Testament.

First of Six Talks presented by Sandra Bishop, national & international speaker with the School of Evangelisation. Commence on Monday 18th July at 10.30am at St Clare's Hall. Francis/Clare Charismatic Prayer Community invite all parishioners & friends. Cost \$20. Olive 9878 4103; Therese 9878 3706.

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

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!!!

THE AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Resumes this Thursday, with "Bingo" in the SFX Hall, at 1.00 pm. All parishioners and their friends are welcome at our activities. There is a programme in the church, detailing our activities for Term 3. For information, ring Judy - 9878 4212.

How the Priesthood Evolved

A 3-part series on the priesthood from the early church when there were no priests to the present day concludes this Wednesday afternoon following the 12.00pm mass.

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

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE PROGRAM

COORDINATOR REQUIRED

Commencing Term 3 2011.

Before & After School Care.

MUST BE QUALIFIED

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 22nd JULY.

URGENT DONATIONS REQUIRED!

St Vincent de Paul centre at Mont Albert is in urgent need of blankets. Donations of clean blankets can be left at the Parish House. Thank you.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—July 24

Ministers of Communion

6.00pm G Machado, J Hickey,
J Morison, M O'Brien,
M Slevison
8.00am J Reid
10.00am A Leonard, E&E VDW,
M Blundy, M Hughes,
N Succar, W Tan

5.00pm MT Francisco, T Parker

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm R Meyers, M Dodds
8.00am B Reid
10.00am M Edwards, C Leung
5.00pm H Dyjak, M Waring

Welcomers

6.00pm J Hickey, J Morison
8.00am B&M Walker
10.00am E&E VDW
5.00pm B Cohen

Altar Linen

July 17 I Balchin
July 24 B Burns

Counters

July 17 R&Y Roy
July 24 P McLaughlin, G Kitch

Rosary Statue

July 17—La Family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
July 24—B&P Hine, 15 Hegend, St, Mitcham

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 17 P Grech
July 24 G Amato

Lettori

July 17 M Salamone, D Amato
July 24 C Gibellini, P Grech

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 17 D Amato, M Casamento
July 24 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera

ST CLARE'S—July 24

Ministers of the Word

P Fitzgerald, K McMahon, A McGovern

Ministers of Communion

P O'Brien, J Murphy, T Shallvey,
I D'Amato, P Wolbers, D Wolbers,
H Keown

Welcomers—July 24

P Ciccotosto, A Kennedy

Piety Stall—July 24

A Lindsey

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

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.