

Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 27th, 2008—Year A

We warmly welcome all parishioners and visitors to today's Eucharist.

Mass of Freedom—6pm & 9.30am

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.

Psalm Response

Lord, I love your commands.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

O bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness.

This week

What are the things which are most precious to you? Does this week's gospel challenge your attitude to them? This week, treasure those things & people who are precious to you in special ways.

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.

The gathering of the pilgrim people of God

In the past few weeks people have been wearing their Catholicism on their sleeves. I have never seen or experienced anything like this before, especially in the streets of Sydney, for one. I felt everyone acknowledged that faith is not a private matter. Some commentators and reporters say it was a show of Catholic power but for me it was more of a celebration of our faith, the faith of young people at an international level. It was wonderful to see the many different nations participating especially in the liturgies.

The word "church" comes from the Greek word ekklesia, which simply means a "gathering" or assembly of people. It was used to describe the Sunday gatherings of the new Christians in Palestine, who came together in the homes of Christians to have a meal, to hear the teachings and stories of Jesus read aloud, to offer prayers and petitions, and then to receive Jesus' body and blood as their spiritual food and drink. Ekklesia thus meant the assembly gathered in fellowship to pray, to hear the good news, and to share the Lord's Supper. It simply meant these gatherings of Christians in the local church.

*Christians are called pilgrims because this earth and this life are not their final home. They are people on the move, not totally at home on this earth, journeyers seeking a better life in their permanent home. Pilgrims also tend to lose their way on their pilgrimage to God; they need the help of fellow pilgrims, of the church.**

Even though I was not here and missed being part of the celebrations here, I knew from the beginning it would be wonderful and trusted all of you, and I knew that you would come together to support and celebrate the pilgrims. I am proud to be your Pastor. What happened here a fortnight ago is a powerful testimony to our Christian life and it also indicates what this community is capable of. Hold and treasure this moment. We are all pilgrims moving towards God and we need each other to nourish, sustain and support us on our journey. Thank you for celebrating with our young pilgrims.

**Joseph Egan, Restoration and Renewal the Church in the Third Millennium
Fr Anthoni ofm*

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

St FX Primary School 9890 1108
www.sfxboxh@melb.catholic.edu.au

Parish of St Clare
138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone/Fax 9898 5080
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK
17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kg 3:5, 7-12
You have asked for wisdom.
Rom 8:28-30
He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

Mt 13:44-52
He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Monday
Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday—St Martha
1 Jn 4:7-16; Jn 11:19-27

Wednesday
Jer 15:10, 16-21; Mt 13:44-46

Thursday—St Ignatius of Loyola
Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53

Friday—St Alphonsus Liguori
Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday
Jer 26:11-16, 24; Mt 14:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 55:1-3

Rom 8:35, 37-39

Mt 14:13-21

17th SUNDAY

Friars of the Parishes

Fr Anthony Selvaraj ofm
Parish Priest
Fr Benignus Clowes ofm
Assistant Priest
Fr Bob Matthews ofm
Assistant Priest

Pastoral Associate—Liz Clark

SFX Parish Office Hours are 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

Monday, Wed, Thurs, Friday
Parish Secretary— Monique Waring

St Clare's Parish Office Hours are as follows:

Wednesday & Friday
9.00 am—10.30 am
Parish Secretary—Dianna Hardy

In the event of needing a priest urgently, please telephone 9890 2231 at any time of the day.

Parish Pastoral Council

Liz Allan *Liz Clark*
Veronika Bellis *Dianna Hardy*
Vince Fazio *Carmel Purdey*
Clare Hangan *Monique Waring*
Anthony Kennedy
Peter Leonard
Trish Nicholson (Chair)
Next meeting : August 7

Liturgy Times

St Clare's

Sunday 8.30 am, 10.30am
Weekdays:
Wed, Fri & Sat 9.05 am
Confessions Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
Sunday 7.30 am
9.30am
(Italian) 11.00 am
5.00 pm

Weekdays: Mon—Fri - 12 noon
Confessions:
Saturday 4.00—5 .00 pm
other times by appointment in either Parish

Marriages and Baptisms

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

Baptisms

St Francis Xavier's—
1st and 3rd Sundays of month only,
12.30 pm
St Clare's—2nd Sunday, 11.30 am

IN THE PARISHES THIS WEEK:

Sunday 27 July		PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL GRADE 5 FAMILY MASS MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
Monday 28 July	8.30am 10.00am 4.00pm	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY @ ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: OLIVE 9878 4103 CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
Tuesday 29 July	12.45pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA (SFX PHMR)
Wednesday 30 July	8.30am 9.00am 12.30pm	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST). FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE
Thursday 31 July	9.15am 2.00pm	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—FILM LUNCHEON @ WAVERLEY (MAMMA MIA) - BOOKINGS CLOSED. NEXT WEEK: BLUMES FASHIONS @ 1.30PM IN SFX HALL. AFTERNOON TEA FOR ADRIENNE & FRANK KENNA @ SCPH
Friday 1 August	11.00am 7.30pm-9pm	HOLY HOUR @ SFX BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 2 August	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE— ALL WELCOME!



WOULD ALL THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED IN WORLD YOUTH DAY 08 IN SYDNEY, PLEASE CONTACT FR ANTHONI AT THE PARISH OFFICE.

LINK TO YOUTUBE FOR POWER POINT PRESENTATION FROM MASS WITH THE PILGRIMS
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4OGoain2Nc>

THERE IS A REQUEST FOR A DRIVER ON WEDNESDAY EVERY 5 WEEKS OR SO TO COLLECT ST CLARE'S SENIORS & RETURN THEM HOME AFTER ATTENDING A SOCIAL GATHERING AT THE PARISH HOUSE. Please contact: Angela McGovern, Denise Hayes or Bev Poynton.

THERE ARE PETITIONS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCHES CALLING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The Racial Discrimination Act in the Northern Territory was suspended last year with the introduction of the Emergency Intervention. Its suspension is an issue for all Australians, Indigenous & Non-Indigenous. It is a human rights violation.
Please consider adding your name.

From Fr Ben

A Peanuts cartoon shows Lucy looking up at the sky & saying, "Sometimes clouds form actual words." Charlie Brown says, "They're not clouds; that's skywriting." Unmoved, Lucy says, "As I was saying, sometimes clouds form actual words."

BE MY WITNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (ACTS 1:8)

Welcome to the Catholic Mission Church Appeal for 2008. This year's theme is tied in closely with World Youth Day and uses a powerful image of Christ, a youth in mission, embracing His cross.

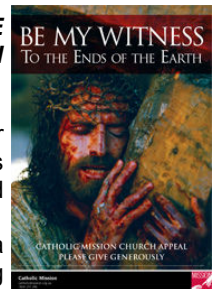
Living a missionary life starts from our core radiating outwards from our own parish, family and community. If we are truly witnesses to Christ's love with our children, our families and our communities we can then more easily strive to serve the Church on an international level.

Ruth Townley is a young Australian chose to sacrifice two years of her life in Uganda, where many years of civil war have certainly trialled the human spirit. Ruth was taken aback by what she saw at the camp for internally displaced people in Kitgum and asked:

"How am I going to do this for two years... I need to be able to walk into this camp every day and somehow see the life, the dignity, the potential in these people and the hope. What can I offer? What in my experience qualifies me to walk in every day and be telling the people there is a reason for living, a reason for fighting? And then I decided that what I have to try and offer to these people is hope, because they can't hope for themselves right now, but I can hope for them."

Religious and missionaries throughout the world continue to deepen the faith of locals, to spread the Gospel, and to address human needs, oppression and persecution which the majority world faces on a daily basis. May this calling help us to replace unbelieving with belief, hate with love, suffering with life, conflict with peace.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE CATHOLIC MISSION CHURCH APPEAL.



BE MY WITNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Join in the spirit of World Youth Day with Catholic Mission today and be Christ's witness the world over. Like the image of Christ embracing His cross, we are called to make a true sacrifice, not just a simple gesture. Think twice before offering, and then give from your heart. Become a supporter of our **Friends in Faith** program and give monthly, for the sake of missionaries serving humanity.

www.catholicmission.org.au
1800 257 296

Catholic Mission

www.catholicmission.org.au
Freecall 1800 257 296



ADULT EDUCATION

In a bid to grow in our understanding about current church issues and teachings, we are running a small discussion group **on the second Thursday of each month** in St Francis Xavier Parish Meeting Room. **Next meeting: 14th August—10-11.30am.**

The Grade 3 children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last week. We congratulate them on this step forward on their faith journey.

First Communion for the Grade 4 children will take place over the next three weekends at the 6pm & 9.30am Masses. There will be a large number of first communicants at the 6pm Mass on Saturday 3 August in particular.

My corner

The gospel story this week is about treasures and pearls and about an extraordinary catch of fish—sounds more like a kid's fairy story or the end of some exciting adventure narrative than a story on which to base the way you live. In a world where many of us are making positive steps towards living more simply, making choices for the environment, for the alleviation of poverty, and trying to recycle carefully, you could wonder whether we should be chasing treasure or seeking pearls for our own enrichment.

Recently I attended a funeral where the homilist assured us that God loves people who question and seek to know more, that we are all akin to being Thomas' twin, and so have the right to ask and ask, and not to be satisfied with the first answer we receive. He was virtually encouraging us to be treasure seekers. I think that this is what this Gospel is about—not having or owning or treasuring, but about seeking out what are our true riches, what we really value—and then using and investing these resources in our pursuit of all that is truly important. It's not about storing up our treasures but utilizing them to live the message of the gospel.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

Last Tuesday, the RCIA team gathered, excited and eager to begin our new program. **We had no new enquirers**, despite the list of names of people we had hoped to see.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR FAITH, PLEASE INVITE THEM TO COME NEXT TUESDAY AT 7.30PM—SFX PARISH HOUSE.

If you or others you know are feeling enlivened and enthused about your faith as a result of World Youth Day, you might also like to join us.

NEW THANKSGIVING

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

CENTACARE CATHOLIC FAMILY SERVICES ANNUAL CHURCH APPEAL

The Annual Appeal for the Centacare Catholic Family Services will take place next weekend. Centacare has been supporting and caring for the families of the Melbourne Archdiocese for over 70 years and relies on the support of our Catholic community. Please give generously so Centacare can continue to support families to deal with the complex issues they face today.

The Wurundjeri people say: "Wominjeka Coranderrk murranaawano"
Welcome everyone to Coranderrk

Saturday 16 August. 11am-5pm at Coranderrk, 19 Barak Lane, Healesville.

Melway 278 A 10. For the second year the public are invited to visit Coranderrk, a sacred Aboriginal site. This was a former Aboriginal reserve 1863-1948.

The day will begin at 11am with an Aboriginal ceremony. Visitors are invited to learn more of the local history, see the specially designed displays and partake in the various activities for all ages. There will be an opportunity for conversation over a cup of tea, coffee or a mug of hot soup and damper. Dress for possible wet and muddy conditions and enjoy a walk around what remains of the reserve.

DIARY DATE

SUNDAY AUGUST 10 AFTER 10.30AM MASS, BBQ TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST CLARE. THE PARISH WILL PROVIDE SAUSAGES—PARISHIONERS ARE ASKED TO BRING SALADS & DESSERTS TO SHARE.

See back page for details of retreats at the Campion Centre of Ignatian Spirituality in Kew.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-AUGUST 3

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm M O'Brien, D Williamsz,
N Succar, P Ruff, P McLaughlin
7.30am S Carney
9.30am M Mackay, I Abraham, M Blundy,
P Ruff, C Chin, C Hangan,
K de Lacy

5pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6pm SCHOOL CHILDREN
7.30am F Neyland
9.30am SCHOOL CHILDREN
5pm M Soulsby, L Soulsby

Welcomers

6pm SCHOOL CHILDREN
9.30am SCHOOL CHILDREN

Children's Liturgy

August 10—19th Sunday OT—Group C
August 17—20th Sunday OT—Group A

Altar Linen

July 27 Lucy Sanelli
August 3 Bet Burns

Counters

July 27 J Butler, M Rossely
August 3 M Rossley, M O'Connor

Collectors 5pm

July 27 I Mahlstedt
August 3 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

July 27—B&P Hine, 15 Hegend Rd, Mitcham
August 3—Sanelli family, 10 Wellington Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 27 G Amato
August 3 J Adamo

Lettori

July 27 M Salamone, C Chessari
August 3 V Peluso, N Tedone

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 27 G Massarotti, D Amato
August 3 M Casamento, G Tabbachiera

ST CLARE'S—AUGUST 3

Ministers of the Word

8.30 T Nicholson, P Fitzgerald
10.30 K McMahon, K McDonald

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am J Murphy, D Wolbers, P Wolbers
10.30am D Tan, I D'Amato, D Hardy

Piety Stall—August 3

8.30 A Lindsey 10.30 P Green

Ministers to the Sick call on families during the week. If you or someone in your family is unable to come to Mass, please let us know at the office and we can arrange for a Minister to visit you at home.

Would parishioners please note that it is preferable if Mass intentions are brought to the Parish House and entered into the diary kept for intentions. This will avoid, as much as is possible, any disappointment, when 2 or more intentions are requested for the same Mass.

We welcome all new parishioners. Please complete one of the blue forms at the back of the church, and place on collection plate/in box provided. A parish rep. will contact you to welcome you and advise you of the activities and organisations at St Francis Xavier's and St Clare's.