

# St Francis Xavier and St Clare

In the care of the Franciscans since 1975 and 1998.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A ~ 24th July 2011

## From the first book of Kings

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.' The word of the Lord.

## Responsory (All)

Ps 118:57f

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

## From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

## 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 13:44-46

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.' The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Acclaim** Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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

**PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER**

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**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

After being nearly snowbound for two weeks, a Seattle man departed for his vacation in Miami Beach, where he was to meet his wife the next day at the conclusion of her business trip to Minneapolis. They were looking forward to pleasant weather and a nice time together. Unfortunately, there was some sort of mix up at the boarding gate, and the man was told he would have to wait for a later flight. He tried to appeal to a supervisor but was told the airline was not responsible for the problem and it would do no good to complain.

Upon arrival at the hotel the next day, he discovered that Miami Beach was having a heat wave, and its weather was almost as uncomfortably hot as Seattle's was cold. The desk clerk gave him a message that his wife would arrive as planned. He could hardly wait to get to the pool area to cool off, and quickly sent his wife an e-mail, but due to his haste, he made an error in the e-mail address.

His message therefore arrived at the home of an elderly preacher's wife whose even older husband had died only the day before.

When the grieving widow opened her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out an anguished scream, and fell to the floor dead. Her family rushed to her room where they saw this message on the screen:

Dearest wife,

Departed yesterday as you know. Just now got checked in.  
Some confusion at the gate. Appeal was denied.  
Received confirmation of your arrival tomorrow.

Your loving husband.

P.S. Things are not as we thought. You're going to be surprised at how hot it is down here.

Old-time missionaries used to have a field day with today's gospel, or at least with part of it. While they may have liked the passages that suggested that heaven was *like* a treasure in a field or *like* a pearl of great price, they told us that hell was a furnace of fire where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some of those preachers seemed to know an awful lot about hell! It's as though they were travel writers who had visited the place several times just to warn us about what to expect when we got there. And do you remember how easy it was to get in? Many of us thought we had a first class ticket in our pocket most of the time.

Once, during a parish mission, where the visiting priest had given us an excruciatingly detailed description of hell, he told us, 'You could be dipping your hand in the holy water font as you leave the Church tonight and be struck down dead and sent to hell for eternity!' At the end of that session my cousin stood by the holy water font and watched everyone else dip their hand in, saying as they did, 'After you, after you.' She wasn't taking any chances!

All this is not to underestimate the reality of hell. If we believe in heaven and free will, it has to be logically true that hell exists and that, consistent with some people's free, knowing and serious rejection of God and of love all their lives, these choices will destine decisions made for, and by, them in the next world as well.

There are two major differences, however, between how we used to speak about heaven and hell and what we say now. Just as we know the treasure hidden in the field or the pearl of great price are metaphors for heaven, rich and wonderful ones at that, they remain images that enable us to grasp an unimaginable concept. So it is with hell. How can we imagine life without love and God? We have learnt that our guidebook regarding hell needs to be more circumscribed about what that destination or state of being holds. All we can confidently say is that hell is non-God.

The second change is that we are more careful about being so confident in regard to who is going there. Jesus tells us that God wants all humanity to be saved. We can't take that seriously and then have people slip into hell for a small infringement of the rules.

If we read today's Gospel in a different way it can be a commentary on what God has done for us. Humanity can be seen as the treasure in the field that God has sold everything to own. We are the pearl of great price that God has moved heaven and earth to possess and we are the fish caught up in the net of God's love.

Our God is the one who became one like us, in Jesus the Lord, so that we might know, love and serve him. That's what today's Gospel is all about.

Jesus reminds his disciples that in glimpsing the things of heaven they have to be like the master of a household. That's a rich image. In Jesus' day such a person would have provided protection, love, security and justice for all.

God has given us free will and treasures, both new and old, to help us protect each other, love each other, feel secure in the truth and act justly. But we need to know that the choices we make in regard to these things have implications for how we live now and in the life to come.

Richard Leonard sj.

*We pray for those recently deceased: John Chappell, Terry Ridge; those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ernest Manshon, Epifana Nansen, Caterina Calabro, Madeleine O'Sullivan and the sick of our Parish:*

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK -**  
**MON: 2 COR 4:7-15; MT 20:20-28—ST JAMES**  
**TUES: EX 33:7-11,34:5-9,28; MT 13:36-43**  
**(SS JOACHIM & ANN)**  
**WED: EX 34:29-35; MT 13:44-46**  
**THURS: EX 40:16-21,34-38; MT 13:47-53**  
**FRI: (1 JN 4:7-16); JN 11:19-27 (ST MARTHA)**  
**SAT: LEV 25:1, 8-17; MT 14:1-12**  
**18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Is 55:1-3; ROM 8:35, 37-39; MT 14:13-21**

<b>SUNDAY 24 JULY - AFTER 10AM MASS</b>		<b>PUBLIC MEETING RE PLANS OF CHURCH REFURBISHMENT</b>
<b>MONDAY 25 JULY</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>	<b>SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX</b> (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
	<b>10.30AM</b>	<b>FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: EUCHARIST IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION IN NEW TESTAMENT (BELOW)</b>
	<b>4.00PM</b>	<b>CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S</b>
<b>TUESDAY 26 JULY</b>	<b>12.30PM</b> <b>3.00-3.30PM</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)</b> <b>PARISH PRAYER GROUP IN SFX CHURCH</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 27 JULY</b>	<b>8.30AM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)</b> <b>FIRST RECONCILIATION AT SFX</b>
<b>THURSDAY 28 JULY</b>	<b>1.00PM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—MUSIC AFTERNOON (BELOW)</b> <b>FIRST RECONCILIATION AT SFX</b>
<b>FRIDAY 29 JULY</b>	<b>9.00-11.00AM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>PLAYGROUP AT SFX (CLASSROOM NEXT TO OLD LIBRARY)</b> <b>BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM</b>
<b>SATURDAY 30 JULY</b>	<b>9.00AM</b> <b>2.00PM</b> <b>6.00PM</b>	<b>PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.</b> <b>WEDDING AT SFX</b> <b>FIRST EUCHARIST MASS</b>
<b>SUNDAY 31 JULY</b>	<b>10.00AM</b>	<b>FIRST EUCHARIST MASS</b>

### **AN INTRODUCTION - SR MOIRA BRODERICK CSB**

These past two weeks I have been settling-in to Box Hill & to the parish, and I have met with some folks already, but I thought you may like a little "snap-sho" of myself ~ I am a Brigidine Sister & although in recent years a "Golden Jubilarian"!, I am very happy to join the parish & continue to share in the life of the whole community. I come with lots of experience in many aspects of parish life & still lots of energy to keep active & develop the ministries of us all together. I love the pastoral nature of being a Pastoral Associate as it enables me to enjoy all the people from our "littlest ones" to our "wisest ones"! I look forward to coming to know you all & enjoy every day with you.  
With love, Sr. Moira

### **ADVANCE NOTICE !!**

#### **COMMUNION TO THE SICK MEETING**

On Wednesday, 10th August at 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Sr Moira & Fr Bob invite all in either St Clare or SFX communities who currently are Ministers of Communion to the Sick to the hospitals, nursing homes, or homebound folks, to gather in SFX Meeting Room. We invite others who may be willing to join in & meet with us to become familiar with this special ministry as we do need some extra folks. We welcome you. Thank You ~ Sr Moira

### **NOVENA TO ST MARY MACKILLOP 2011**

Our St Mary's feast we celebrate on Monday 8th August, so we begin a novena (9 days) prayer on Sunday 31st July & we will celebrate our 12 noon weekday Mass each day & our weekend Masses, 6/7 August, to pray to St Mary for all our needs, those of our country Australia & for the needs of all those around the world who suffer hunger, poverty, war, violence & oppression. Let's give this, Mary's first feast since her canonization, a huge prayer-storm!

### **STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purposes." - Romans 8:28

Do you really trust God? Do you believe that all things work for good? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. However, when we wholeheartedly place our trust in God we will never be disappointed.

### **RCIA STARTING NEXT MONTH**

Team members please note—we will meet on Tuesday 26th July (this week) at 7.30pm in SFX Parish House to review, prepare and plan the 2011-2012 RCIA. Sr Moira and Fr Bob will meet with the tea. Everyone welcome.

### **THE AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

*This Thursday, will have a musical afternoon, with Barbara and Len Powell. Please come along and welcome these performers – and be prepared to join in the singing! 1 pm, SFX Hall. Entry by donation. Next week we will have Gentle Exercises, with Marlene. All parishioners and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.*

### **MEET & GREET WITH SR MOIRA AT ST CLARE'S**

*After Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament next Wednesday, 27th July at 10.30am in St Clare's Parish House. Come along for morning tea to meet with Sr Moira.*

### **LITURGY 2011-2012**

In order to form a revitalised Liturgy Team for SFX & St Clare Parish, I invite all with a special interest in the liturgy to join with me for a short meeting on Sunday 31st July from 11.15am after our cuppa in the SFX Meeting Room.

### **LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION TOGETHER!**

*How do we now experience our liturgy? How may we develop our liturgy? Aims of our Liturgy Team for 2011-2012?*

*....Vat II document on the Sacred Liturgy invites us to ensure ...quote "that our liturgical worship must be a living & vital participation of all the people of God"! How are we doing?*

### **THE EUCHARIST**

*Eucharist in God's Plan of Salvation in New Testament. Second talk presented by Sandra Bishop, national & international speaker with the School of Evangelisation. Monday 25th 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.*

### **FIRST FRIDAY COLLECTION**

Thankyou to all who contributed to the First Friday Collection in July - \$175.50 was the total, for the Sacred Heart School in Sideia, PNG.

### **ROSTERS**

#### **ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—July 31**

#### **Ministers of Communion**

6.00pm D Williamsz, J Wells,  
M Rossely, N Succar,  
R Meyers  
8.00am J Reid  
10.00am C Chin, V&G Mooney,  
K de Lacy, L Lampard,  
M Ferdinando, M Sinclair,  
H Dyjak, MT Francisco

#### **Ministers of the Word**

6.00pm M Williamsz. L Norton  
8.00am B Reid  
10.00am L Hughes, J D'Souza  
5.00pm J O'Brien, H Miller

#### **Welcomers**

6.00pm M Rossely, D Williamsz  
8.00am J Reid  
10.00am L Lampard, S Liew  
5.00pm J Dominic

#### **Altar Linen**

July 24 B Burns  
July 31 L Sanelii

#### **Counters**

July 24 P McLaughlin, G Kitch  
July 31 T&E O'Brien

#### **Rosary Statue**

July 24—B&P Hine, 15 Hegend, St, Mitcham  
July 31—Sanelli family, 10 Wellington Rd

#### **ITALIAN MASS**

#### **Commentator**

July 24 G Amato  
July 31 G Tabacchiera

#### **Lettori**

July 24 C Gibellini, P Grech  
July 31 N Pozzobon, J Amato

#### **Ministri dell'Eucarista**

July 24 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera  
July 31 M Casamento, M Salamone

#### **ST CLARE'S—July 31**

#### **Ministers of the Word**

K McMahon, T Nicholson, D Hayes

#### **Ministers of Communion**

D Tan, P Cleary, P Ciccotosto, P O'Brien,  
A Kennedy, J Murphy, I D'Amato

#### **Welcomers—July 31**

A La Scala, H Keown

#### **Piety Stall—July 31**

P Green

### **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](http://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.**