

St Francis Xavier and St Clare

In the care of the Franciscans since 1975 and 1998.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year A ~ 31st July 2011.

From the prophet Isaiah

Is 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Responsory (All)

Ps 144:8f

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.

The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts.

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Rom 8:35f

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (All)

Mt 4:4b

Alleluia, alleluia! No one lives on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children. The Gospel of the Lord.

Entrance God, come to my help. Lord, quickly give me assistance.

You are the one who helps me and sets me free: Lord, do not be long in coming.

Acclam We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion You gave us bread from heaven, Lord:
a sweet-tasting bread that was very good to eat.

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

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SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL 9890 1108
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PARISH OF ST CLARE

138 Woodhouse Grove
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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

There is an old line that runs, 'If you feel distant from God – guess who has moved?' It picks up the theme in the Romans reading which we have just heard, 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God.' In the midst of persecution and suffering, St Paul writes to the community at Rome to tell them that, even in their fear, desolation and grief, nothing, and no one, can separate them from God's love. This shows us that when we feel separated from God we may have walked away from him, usually through destructive behaviour that sets up and maintains distance between us and the source of our faith, hope and love.

St Matthew and Isaiah also knew that nothing can separate us from God's love. Isaiah's river of plenty and Matthew's loaves and fish are all about the *plenty* of God's kingdom, the abundance of God's goodness. Too often we focus on the miracle of transformation that occurs in Matthew's Gospel when all he tells about the actual miracle is that Jesus 'breaks and shares'. Matthew is more interested in the leftovers than he is in the miracle itself. From five loaves and two fish we are told twelve baskets of scraps are left over.

Numbers are rarely random in the Bible. The echo of the seven days of creation would not have been lost on the first hearers of this story as Jesus takes seven fruits of the earth to feed the crowd. Similarly, the twelve baskets of scraps, the remnants of the meal at which all were filled and satisfied, echo the sign of God through the twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament. For us today this story also has consoling resonance. Matthew is telling us that Jesus sees our need, does not turn us away, comes to where we are, as we are, and recreates us through the abundance of his love, so we can be signs of His kingdom in the world.

The Church has always believed that the feeding of the crowd prefigured the Eucharist, this weekly time where we receive the fullness of God in his Word, in the life of the community, in the minister and through the transformation of the Bread and Wine. It's all about abundance. Our God has abundantly provided for us so that we can abundantly provide for all the world which is given into our care. 'Those to whom much is given, much is required.' The problem is that when we look around we see that while some of us have so much, others have nothing at all.

If this reality doesn't move us to a change of heart and right action then we have not understood the story of the loaves and the fish, that God's goodness is never intended for a select few. Sometimes people look at the poverty in the world and think, 'How could God allow that?' This question can cause us to feel distant from God, but in light of what God has given us and our ability to share from this abundance, when we think like and feel like this, guess who has moved away from whom?

Richard Leonard SJ

HEART OF LIFE SPIRITUALITY CENTRE,

The next First Saturday of the Month Prayer Day is on Saturday August 6. Chris Chaplin msc will be leading the day with the topic 'Be Still: Mindfulness and Meditation'. You might like to come along. 10.00am - 3.30pm \$50.00 and BYO lunch. To book in please ring Heart of Life - 9890 1101



The Parishes of St Francis Xavier & St Clare

Social Justice Group

Next meeting on

SUNDAY 14th August

11:30 to 12.30

(after 10.00 am Mass and a cuppa)

At the PARISH MEETING ROOM

If you are doing or want to do any justice project And would like us to be involved

Call Maurice on 8812 2979 or Frank on

Tel: 0404 157 351

Or attend the meeting.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

WE stand for a fair go for all the people of God

CATHOLIC CARE ANNUAL CHURCH APPEAL

The Annual Appeal for CatholicCare (formally Centacare Family Services) will take place in this parish next weeeeked. CatholicCare has been supporting and caring for the families of the Melbourne Archdiocese for over 75 years and relies on the support of our Catholic community. Please give generously so Catholic Care can continue to support families to deal with the complex issues that they face today.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK -

MON: NUM 11:4-15; MT 14:13-21(St A LIGUORI)
TUES: NUM 12:1-13; MT 14:22-36
WED: NUM 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29, 34-35; MT 15:21-28
THURS: NUM 20:1-13; MT 16:13-23 (St J VIANNEY)
FRI: DEUT 4:32-40; MT 16:24-28 (St DOMINIC)
SAT: DANIEL 7:9-10, 13-14
19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is 55:1-3; ROM 8:35, 37-39; MT 14:13-21

We pray for those recently deceased:

Antonio Mosca
those whose anniversaries occur at this time:
Gino Salvitti, Luis Loayza Celi, Jean Buttigieg
and the sick of our Parish:

SUNDAY 31 JULY	10.00AM	FIRST EUCHARIST MASS
MONDAY 1 AUGUST	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
	10.30AM 4.00PM	FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP / ST CLARE'S CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
TUESDAY 2 AUGUST	12.30PM 3.00-3.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) PARISH PRAYER GROUP IN SFX CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST	8.30AM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) BAPTISM PROGRAM
THURSDAY 4 AUGUST	1.00PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—GENTLE EXERCISES (BELOW) PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 5 AUGUST	9.00-11.00AM 11.00AM 7.30PM	PLAYGROUP AT SFX (CLASSROOM NEXT TO OLD LIBRARY) HOLY HOUR AT SFX BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 6 AUGUST	9.00AM 6.00PM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE. FIRST EUCHARIST MASS
	10.00AM 12.30PM	FIRST EUCHARIST MASS 4 BAPTISMS AT SFX

FEAST OF ST CLARE

We celebrate this special feast on Thursday 11th August so we will have a special "carry-over" morning tea at St Clare's on Sunday 14th August after 9.00am Mass. Please bring a plate to share and we will gather in the hall. All parishioners welcome. Let's have a great full-parish celebration for St Clare Day 2011!

COMMUNION TO THE SICK MEETING

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!

To celebrate the first FEAST DAY OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP

on Monday 8th August, the Sisters of St Joseph invite you to visit the Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre on Saturday 6th, Sunday 7th and Monday 8th August from 10am—4pm. The Museum, chapel and gift shop will be open and refreshments available.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?" - Isaiah 55:2

Do you waste the financial gifts that God has given you on things that are not necessary or on things that do not give you joy and fulfillment? This is Isaiah's challenge to us this week.

RCIA STARTING IN AUGUST

Our RCIA Team are now meeting & preparing to begin a new RCIA series for 2011-2012. We invite all in the parish to join in this wonderful ministry and personally invite & encourage someone to look at becoming part of our Catholic faith community here in St Francis Xavier and St Clare's.....more details next week.

THE AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Autumn Friendship Club this Thursday will have Gentle Exercises, with Marlene, at 1.00pm, SFX Hall. The exercises really are gentle and a lot of fun. Next week, we are having Blumes' Fashions, so this week, we will be raffling two vouchers, for \$30 and \$15 discount on a purchase from Blumes. It will be winter sale time, so come and find a bargain! All parishioners and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.

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 this 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?

OPEN LETTER TO POPE BENEDICT XVI & THE BISHOPS OF AUSTRALIA

There is a petition at the doors of the churches calling on each diocesan bishop to convene a synod in his diocese under the provisions of Canon Law (C.460-468), to discuss how the local Church might be a more authentic witness in the 21st century. The petition is also available to sign online at: <http://www.petitiononline.com/adlim11/petition.html>

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—August 7

Ministers of Communion
6.00pm

8.00am
10.00am

5.00pm
Ministers of the Word

6.00pm
8.00am
10.00am
5.00pm
Welcomers
6.00pm
8.00am
10.00am
5.00pm

Altar Linen

July 31 L Sanelli
August 7 C Pollocks

Counters

July 31 T&E O'Brien
August 7 J Reid, M Rossely

Rosary Statue

July 31—Sanelli family, 10 Wellington Rd
August 7—M&J Dodds, 6 Wellington Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 31 G Tabacchiera
August 7 D Amato

Lettori

July 31 N Pozzobon, J Amato
August 7 A Lanza, S Faulisi

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 31 M Casamento, M Salamone
August 7 D Amato, G Massarotti

ST CLARE'S—August 7

Ministers of the Word

Sr Moira, K McMahon, C Abiad

Ministers of Communion

A Kennedy, P Wolbers, D Wolbers, E Lim,
P Cleary, J Murphy, I D'Amato

Welcomers—August 7

M Boulton, I Abiad

Piety Stall—August 7

D Tan

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.