

St Francis Xavier and St Clare

1st Sunday of Advent ~ Year B ~ 27 November 2011

From the prophet Isaiah

Isa 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand. The word of the Lord.

Psalm (All) Ps 79:2-3.15-16.18-19

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.
O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.
God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.
May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

From the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Cor 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (All) (Ps 84:8)

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

From the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!' The gospel of the Lord.

Gathering To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you have I trusted;
let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

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

Communion The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

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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

**(FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2011 UNTIL
COMPLETION OF REFURBISHMENT OF SFX
CHURCH)**

St Clare's

Sunday 9.30 am

Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 am

Confessions: Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday

(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

**(FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2011 UNTIL
COMPLETION OF REFURBISHMENT OF SFX
CHURCH)**

Anyone wishing to have a child baptised should give four to six weeks notice, so that parents can attend a preparation course.

St Clare's—1st & 3rd Sundays only,
11.00 am

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEEK.

Please collect your envelopes from **St Clare's Church or the Friars Room** (kitchen area). Please hand deliver to your neighbours as well to save postage costs to the parish.

DONATIONS FOR OUR SACRED ARTICLES

In these past weeks the donations to help with the costs of refurbishing our sacred articles for the church have been most encouraging and greatly appreciated. Funds received to date stand at \$3500. Thank you.

RCIA - ENQUIRY TIME 2011 CONCLUDES

As we approach the end of the year, we will welcome Lisa and Greg as we pray with them in their journey of faith and friendship with the community.

We will resume our RCIA Tuesday evening meetings in January 2012. (Dates: TBA)

MUSIC & CHOIR SFX/ST CLARE'S

We need more VOICES!

✦ The Ordination to the Diaconate of Rev Harry Chan OFM (3/12/11) and

✦ Christmas Masses/Carols

Rehearsals for these events are at St Clare's on: Thurs 1, Tues 13, Tues 20 Dec.

The next rehearsal is in preparation for the Diaconate ceremony to be held on Saturday 3rd December at 6pm at St Clare's. The following rehearsals are for our Christmas Eve/Day Masses.

Please come to help, as it is very difficult when response is not "forthcoming!"
Contact Sr Moira on 9890 2231 or let her know after Mass of your help with the singing.

Available now from ST CLARE'S PIETY

STALL: Sunday Missal 2012, contains the New Order of the Mass, prayers and Scripture Readings for Sundays for Year 2012 only, commencing 1st Sunday of Advent 2011. Paperback \$14.95. The new 3 year cycle Sunday Missal will not be available until next April.

Also in stock Children's New Mass Book \$9.95. SVDP Christmas Cards, Franciscan & Columban Calendars.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS

Available after Masses at SFX.
\$5 for a pack of 10 cards.

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK -

MON: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11

TUES: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24

WED: (ST ANDREW)

ROM 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

THURS: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRI: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31

SAT: (ST FRANCIS XAVIER)

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 6-8

NEXT SUNDAY—2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2PET 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

LITURGY SPOT SPECIAL!

The Season of Advent

Once again we are into the weeks of our Advent Season. TV and Junk Mail advertising tells us over and over again that we have "ONLY 30 shopping days to Christmas!" For us, hopefully, we see more to Advent as a Season of Welcome! A Season of Hope! A Season of Concern! We prepare the way of the Lord; we fill in the gullies, level the ridges, straighten the crooked and move a few mountains so that..."God's glory shall be revealed and every eye see it!"

In our families, in our relationships, in our workplaces, we all have a few "gullies to fill, cracks to fill, rough edges to straighten-out and maybe even a mountain to get over, so as to see a brighter view of life.

It is a good four weeks to pace ourselves and take time in our Christmas preparations to see what are the important things in life and blend them into our festivities so that the birth of Jesus in our personal and family lives might be richer in faith, hope, love and outreach of concern for all those we engage with as we see the deeper meaning of Emmanuel – God – with – us in December 2011.

Sr Moira, Liturgy Coordinator

UPDATE ON SFX CHURCH REFURBISHMENT

At our first site meeting this past week, all seems to be going to plan and the plaster/painting, etc, is on target for January. The builders will only have a short break over Christmas/New Year, so work will be on-going. We are "on – a – roll!"

GIFTS OF CONCERN - ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Gifts for our Christmas Giving 2011

This year, due to the storage of items under the Giving Tree being unavailable as our Friars Room temporary church space is limited; gifts for St Vincent de Paul hampers can be offered by "A Card Voucher" – Coles/Myer – Woolies – Maxi or other stores of your choice. The value of these will be your donation towards assisting those in need at Christmas. We replace "Gifts under the Tree" with "Vouchers in the Box!"

A box on the stand near the tree at the front of the sanctuary area in the Friars Room is the "vouchers box" in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued generosity for the needy in our own local area.

St Vincent de Paul Team

PARISH CENSUS

In order to prepare for our Parish Stewardship Campaign in the early part of 2012, we are gathering an update of our Census. On the weekend of December 10/11 we will be asking for **everyone** to renew or give us your current information including email address. You may think you have been a "long time" parishioner at either SFX or St Clare's and so do not need to fill in the cards, BUT we still need you to give us your details on the census cards at this Census Weekend – December 10/11/ Thank you in anticipation.

**Fr Peter McGrath OFM
Parish Priest**

SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER	9.30AM	ANOINTING MASS AT ST CLARE'S FOR BOTH PARISHES
MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
	10.30AM	MASS FOR FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL
TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER	12.30PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)
THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER	9.15AM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB - BINGO IN SFX HALL CHOIR PRACTICE / ST CLARE'S FOR DIACONATE ORDINATION
FRIDAY 2 DECEMBER	9AM-11AM 11.00AM 5.00-6.30PM 7.30PM	PLAYGROUP AT SFX (CLASSROOM NEXT TO FRIARS ROOM) HOLY HOUR AT SFX LADIES DRINKS IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER	9.00AM 6.00PM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX CHURCH ORDINATION OF HARRY CHAN OFM TO THE DIACONATE AT ST CLARE'S—NO 6PM MASS AT SFX
SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER		

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This Thursday we will attend a film luncheon. The film is "Midnight in Paris", with Owen Wilson and has had good reviews. The cost - \$18.00 - covers transport, film and lunch. Contact Pat (9887 6790) to book your seat. All those who have booked should meet in Woodhouse Grove, near St Clare's, at 9.15 am. The following week, we will have Bingo in the SFX hall, at 1 pm. All parishioners, members of the Whitehorse Community and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.

SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 12.15PM AT SFX

Bookings open now-contact the Parish offices. \$20pp. Help wanted on Sat Dec 10th @ 1pm to help set up. Help wanted on Sunday Dec 11th from 12.15 on to help with serving & washing dishes. We would love some youth - (Yr 8,9/10's) to help with the serving Please advise the Parish Office if you are able to help.

FATHER PETER TRAN will celebrate Mass on Monday 28th November at St Clare's Parish Hall. Commencing with Praise & Worship at 10.15am. Light Lunch & fellowship to follow.

FRANCIS/CARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER group invite all parishioners to join them.

Catholic Mission thanks you for your response to the **WORLD MISSION DAY APPEAL**. Your generosity empowers us to witness Christ's love in 160 countries of the world. In contributing **\$1,480.70** you have joined fellow Catholics throughout the world, even in the poorest areas, in supporting Christ's mission to all people.

THE HOME ROSARY WITH THE FATIMA STATUE—2012

Please contact Margaret Soulsby on 9890 4267 to see how you may arrange a suitable time for the statue to come to your home in 2012.

ADVENT MASS OF ANOINTING

TODAY the 1st Sunday of Advent, our two Frs Peter and Fr Bob will celebrate The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during the 9.30am Mass at St Clare's, this will be for a combined anointing for both St Francis Xavier & St Clare communities. Please bring a plate to share for morning tea after this Mass—we will be in the parish house garden in the sunshine and the shade!

PIANIST WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS

We now have most of an ensemble organised for the Christmas eve family mass, however we still need a pianist. Rehearsals are at 2pm on Sundays throughout November and December and we would need the pianist at some or all of those. If you are a young (or young at heart) pianist of about grade 5 standard or above and would like to participate, please contact Lucy Pfeifer (cantor) on 0422 742 083 or lucy.pfeifer@gmail.com or after the 6pm or 9.30am mass.

FRANCISCAN CALENDARS

These are available for purchase from SFX Parish Office & St Clare's Piety Stall for \$6 each and make a great Christmas Gift. This year the calendar celebrates the 800 years since Clare left her family & joined Francis & his brothers in the Portiuncula, the little church of St Mary of the Angels, & made her commitment to Christ.

We pray for those recently deceased: those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Audrey Pentland; Joseph D'Souza, George D'Souza; and the sick of our Parish: Elizabeth Dwyer, Bodie Windsor, Bev Poynton, Peg Walker.

PRAYER CHAIR

The need for regular prayer, both private and liturgical, in our day to day lives was a major emphasis of Pope Benedict's words at WYD08. To carry this forward, you might like to take home one of the yellow sheets at the back of the church, choose a favourite chair at home as your prayer-chair and place the sheet within easy reach of it. Slide into it from time to time during the coming week, take up this sheet and aided by the reflections think over again the words of the Gospel this week.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—December 4

Ministers of Communion

6.00pm D Williamsz, M Rossely, J Morison
5.00pm M T Francisco

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Williamsz, M Doddos
5.00pm C Gately, M Waring

Welcomers

6.00pm L Lampard

Altar Linen

November 27 C Pollocks
December 4 MT Francisco

SFX COUNTERS AT ST CLARE'S

November 27 P McLaughlin, G Kitch
December 4 T&E O'Brien

Rosary Statue

Nov 27 & Dec 4—M&S Hengeveld, 25 Heathfield Rise

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

November 27 R Bidinost
December 4 J Adamo

Lettori

November 27 V Peluso, M Salamone
December 4 A D'Alessandro, L Ferola

Ministri dell'Eucarista

November 27 G Tabacchiera, D Amato
December 4 G Massarotti, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S—December 4

Ministers of the Word

P Fitzgerald, M Soulsby, L Soulsby

Ministers of Communion

J Murphy, I D'Amato, H Keown,

T Nicholson, M&L Soulsby, C Chin

Welcomers—December 4

A Kennedy, I Abiad

Piety Stall—December 4

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
Sr Moira Broderick (ex-officio)

Next meeting : 9 February 2012

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION

**Wednesday 14th December
at 7.30pm at St Clare's
Church**

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 & organisations at St Francis Xavier's & St Clare's.

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.