



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

1st Sunday of Advent November 30th, 2008—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you; let me never come to shame. Do not let my enemies laugh at me. No one who waits for you is ever put to shame.

Psalm Response

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Communion Antiphon

The Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit.

This week

Reflect on the waiting periods in your life—in traffic, at an appointment, in a shop.
Use those periods of waiting to reflect on your day.

POINTS TO PONDER

At Mass, when there's no music, how do we find opportunity to participate fully? Do we enjoy the quiet time?

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.

**We are the clay, you are the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.**

The first reading speaks to me of our struggles, the pull within us; the mixture of shame, guilt, faith, humility and rebellion, but also an acknowledgement of being lost without God. It is the story of our lives.

Even though we believe in God, there are times and moments in our lives that suggest otherwise. Our ways may be far from God ways, we wander off until we are in trouble, then we cry out to God, "that you would tear the heavens and come down". Sometimes I think our strength becomes our weakness. Because we rely totally on our strength and knowledge, we forget God, and God disappears into the background until we retrieve Him when He is needed. In this modern age it is easy to store God in the background and He gets buried in our clutter, and then we begin to wonder what went wrong when things don't work according to plan.

Maybe this Advent we can try to allow God to shape us and to work on us. On our part we need to respond to God's invitation by entering into a better relationship with God through prayer and praying about the kingdom, and how we could be part of it, rather than just seeking God's help with our personal life projects. We have to acknowledge our capacity as creatures, "can't do everything and be everything to everyone", our limitations as human beings. In today's gospel reading we hear Jesus telling us, "be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come", as servants left in charge. As faithful servants there should not be any fear or mixed feelings because the coming of the Lord will only bring hope, peace, joy, justice, love and life to our world; in other words we will be relieved of any huge responsibility and anxiety. We too then can look forward to the coming of the Lord, like in the first reading today.

Let us prepare for the coming of the Lord by sincerely seeking the presence of God in our lives. How can we make God part of our life and world? Do we really want God to be close to us? What can you do this Advent to achieve this and allow God to shape you and your world?

Fr Anthony 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

SFX 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 also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

1 Cor 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

Monday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday—St Francis Xavier

Is 25:6-10; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday

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

Friday

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

Saturday

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

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*
Anthony Kennedy *Monique Waring*
Peter Leonard
Trish Nicholson (Chair)

Next meeting : 5 February 2009

Liturgy Times—

PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES

St Clare's

Sunday 9.00am

Weekdays:

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

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

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12.30PM	MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 1 BAPTISM @ SFX
MONDAY 1 DECEMBER	8.30AM 10.00AM	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 PARISH HALL (ENQUIRIES: OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706)
TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY —SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER ST FRANCIS XAVIER	8.30AM 9.00AM 9.15AM 10.30AM 12.30PM 4.30PM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL. (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 FEAST OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL MASS SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HOUSE ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE CHOIR PRACTICE IN SFX CHURCH KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS MASS IN SFX CHURCH
THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER	9.30AM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB —COACH TRIP TO BLUE LOTUS WATER GARDENS AT YARRA JUNCTION
FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER	11.00AM 7.30-9PM	HOLY HOUR AT SFX BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP —MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12.15PM 12.30PM	SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2 BAPTISMS AT SFX

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—

DECEMBER 11TH—NOON MASS & ANOINTING followed by lunch at Doncaster Inn Hotel, cnr Victoria St & Doncaster Rd. One course \$12, two courses \$13.50, three courses \$15. Bookings essential: Marg 9803 4973, Pat 9887 6790.



“MY CHRISTMAS GIFT”

In preparation for the birth of Christ, this Advent you are invited to consider what form your gift to the Christ-child will be in the way of service and ministry in the parish during 2008. Please prayerfully consider your own personal gifts and talents, and offer to share them with others next year.

Forms are available on seats in the church for the next 2 Sundays. Please complete & return them at Mass or to the Parish Office.

CHOIR PRACTICE FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS AT SFX

Wednesday 3rd December—4.30pm
Wednesday 10th December—4.30pm
All well-wishers & singers please attend these choir practices, as we would appreciate your presence for a good quality choir. Thank you.

From Fr Ben The tour guide in the N.T.

tells the visitors on the bus there is a cave nearby with ancient Aboriginal carving in it. All the tourists rush off to take photographs, except one lady. She said: No way! I saw a cow calving once, that was enough for me!

SENIORS CHRISTMAS

Our Thank You Christmas Lunch to the Seniors (60+) will be held on Sunday December 7th in SFX Parish Hall @ 12.15. Bookings to the Parish Offices—\$15 pp.

HELP WANTED ON SAT DEC 6TH @ 1PM TO HELP SET UP.

Please advise the Parish Office if you are able to help.

FEED THE HUNGRY

Box Hill inter faith service provides a meal once a week for those in need. The parish has 2 teams of 6 or more women who prepare a roast meal & provide company and friendship. We are selling Shortbread Biscuits (macadamia @ \$3, plain \$2.50) to assist with the running costs of the Food at the Barn Centre. Purchase from the SFX Parish Office or there will be a stall after **9am & 10am Masses TODAY. East Timor Gift Cards & Ethiopian Fair-Trade Coffee are also on sale.**

Many thanks to all who contributed (\$168.00) to the First Friday collection for the Sacred Heart school in Sideia, PNG. The money enables children, who otherwise could not afford it, to attend the school. We wish you a happy, holy and peace-filled Christmas.
Imelda, Ivan, Judy.

Father Antoni asks that those on duty for setting-up for Masses take great care to use the correct candles, in particular to use only proper sanctuary candles in the sanctuary lamp. It is also important that all candles other than the sanctuary lamp are extinguished after Mass.



As members of this parish community, we pray for those who are baptized this week: Maya Grace Roben; the sick: Sr Dorothy Renton; those who have died; our RCIA candidates: Diana, Olivia, & Garry. We continue to pray for rain and we pray for those people in India caught in the terrorist attack; and we pray especially for our parish on the Feast of St Francis Xavier on Wednesday.

PARISHIONER SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

My name is Warren Norton and I'm currently seeking employment in the Information Technology area. I would like to highlight a couple of my skills and experiences below:

- **An advanced knowledge of PC Software and Hardware.**
- **Able to plan, implement and manage a local area network (LAN).**
- **Experienced within the areas of customer service / sales / management in retail.**

Please contact me on: 0417 494 789

My corner

Twice during the week I was very shocked to hear people saying how much they are dreading Christmas this year. I would have thought that this might mean that they are anxious about the rush and bustle, finding gifts for people who don't really need them, the shopping, the cooking, the party scene, having to clean up or get organized at home. These ladies, however, told me that there had been arguments in the family during the year, and that there was no way that apologies were going to be made or any steps taken to 'fix up' the differences. They hated the thought of having to decide to be with people they weren't talking to on Christmas day, or having to decide to ignore them all together, and have no family gathering for Christmas. I thought that one of the main themes around Christmas was peace on earth, good will to everyone. The Prep children have been telling Fr Anthoni all about waiting—how they have been waiting for some seeds they planted to grow; how they are waiting to see the school's new building; they are waiting for Christmas and Jesus' coming. They wait, almost holding their breath in excitement, eyes sparkling excited little wriggles showing us just how they feel. Two sayings of Jesus come to mind for me very strongly: "Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" and "forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." This week, I will pray especially for healing for all families, communities, and countries carrying the weight and pain of division, anger and hatred.

Please join me in these prayers.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

The Advent Virus

Anonymous via email
WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS
Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.
Some signs and symptoms of **The Advent Virus**:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

R.C.I.A.

"STAY AWAKE, BE READY,
You do not know the hour when the lord is coming."

Our discussion of the gospel this week centred on these words and what we should be doing to prepare for Jesus' coming, how awake are we to Jesus in our daily lives. Also one of our parishioners Trish, spoke to us about "Baptism". We talked about the meaning of Baptism the symbols and what it meant to us as adults; a new beginning, a life journey of faith, a celebration of God's love for you. We all enjoyed this discussion and kindly thank Trish for joining us.

Please continue to pray for our RCIA members. ~ Lisa Norton.

EAST TIMOR ECO PASTORAL PROJECT CHRISTMAS CARDS

We have a number of lovely gift cards to purchase for presents this Christmas and in so doing to support the people of Dotik in East Timor. They are of the same design as our previous Christmas gift cards from our fundraising effort in 2006 and would make a thoughtful gift for that person who already has "everything"! Cards may be purchased through: Val Mooney 9898 2602, Helen Miller 9877 5760 or through Monique at the Parish House 9890 2231.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-DECEMBER 7

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm A Leonard, M&A O'Connor,
E Kimmet, D Williamsz
8.00am J Reid
10.00am M Chan, E&E VDW, M Sinclair,
C Hangan, M Blundy, W Tan
5.00pm M Soulsby

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm P Tierney, M Williamsz
8.00am J Manshon
10.00am M Robotham, J Tan
5.00pm M Waring, E Umashankar

Welcomers

6.00pm
10.00am **PLEASE VOLUNTEER**

Children's Liturgy

December 7—2nd Sunday Advent—Group B
December 14—3rd Sunday Advent—Group C

Altar Linen

November 30 Celeste Chessari
December 7 Pat Fitzgerald

Counters

November 30 M Rossely, J Butler
December 7 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

Collectors 5pm

November 30 A Cutts
December 7 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

November 30—L Chin, 1/95 Dorking Rd
December 7—M&S Hengeveld, 25 Heathfield Rise

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

November 30 R Bidinost
December 7 J Adamo

Lettori

November 30 S Faulisi, A Dinardo
December 7 G Tabacchiera, G Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

November 30 C Chessari, G Tabacchiera
December 7 M Casamento, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S-DECEMBER 7

Ministers of the Word

9.00am
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
9.00am

Piety Stall—December 7

9.00am

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.

FRANCISCAN CALENDARS ARE ON SALE AT SFX PARISH HOUSE—\$6 ea— A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT. St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards \$3 for a pack of 5 cards.

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.