



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

1st Sunday of Lent March 1st, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls to me, I will answer; I will rescue him and give him honour. Long life and contentment will be his.

Psalms Response

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon

Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

This week

You are asked to take home one of the small blue/mauve Lenten Reflection cards from the church and use it to reflect during this first week of Lent.

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.

GOOD NEWS FROM GOD

I wonder why people feel guilty. At times we hear the confessions of our families and friends with guilt feelings even though we find them to be great people with generous hearts. Lent is not meant to be a time to make us feel guilty or to make us feel small before God. It is a season to respond to God's call to repentance and turning towards God.

On a few occasions I have reminded people to be on time for mass or to come early. Usually after mass a few people do apologise to me for being late. And others enquire whether I am alright, presuming that I might be in a bad mood to chastise the congregation for being late. What I have failed to do is to help people understand their importance in being part of the Body of Christ. We are not just attending mass to receive communion which would reduce the whole meaning of the Celebration of the Eucharist. Coming late to mass, is not the problem, I just wonder what makes people come late? Repentance does not necessarily mean that we are bad and evil people whom Jesus came to judge and punish. It could simply mean changing some of our attitudes and actions which will bring us life.

There are some lovely people, good Christians, wonderful witnesses who struggle with the fear of God and of punishment. Are they really enjoying God? Or are they doing the right thing out of a sense of duty or a fear of God. Today's readings speak to us about God's Covenant and how Jesus was sent to fulfil the Covenant. The whole mission of Jesus was to save and free us and give us life.

Putting fear into the hearts of people does not work, making people feel guilty works for a while. The Good News of Jesus is meant to bring us freedom and life and all that God is offering through Jesus His Son. If we are always circling around but not really getting into what God actually wants of us, we will never experience the fullness that God is offering

The good news of Jesus has the power to transform our lives and the lives of others in our world!

Fr Anthony ofm

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This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

1 Pet 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

Monday

Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11, Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jonah 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Esther 14:1, 3-5, 12-14; Mt 7:7-12

Friday

Ezek 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Deut 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48

NEXT SUNDAY

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31-34

Mk 9:2-10

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 March 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 1 MARCH 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	12.30PM	GRADE 1 FAMILY MASS AT SFX MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 5 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 2 MARCH	8.30AM 10.00AM 7.30PM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706 CONFIRMATION CLASS AT SFX PHMR
TUESDAY 3 MARCH	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH	8.30AM 9AM-11AM 7.30PM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX CHURCH. NEWCOMERS WELCOME CONFIRMATION PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOP AT SFX
THURSDAY 5 MARCH	1.15PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—GAMES & CHAT IN SFX HALL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME
FRIDAY 6 MARCH	7.30PM-9.00PM	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH SFX SCHOOL GOLF DAY BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE
SATURDAY 7 MARCH	8.30AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome!
SUNDAY 8 MARCH SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT		

YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Young people (Year 7 onwards) are invited to take part in the dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. If you are interested in acting, liturgical dance, music, or assisting in any way, please leave your name at the Parish Office—this week if possible.

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week the AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB will meet in the hall, at 1.15. You can chat, play board games, bring your knitting - and also, hear a little about the work Katie Blundy, a parishioner, is doing in a remote community in South Africa. We will hold a raffle to raise some money to donate towards Katie's work. The following week, Thursday, March 12, we have arranged a trip to the SAND SCULPTURES at Frankston, with Lunch at the Seaford Taverner Hotel. Cost - \$42.00 Please ring Judy - 9878 4212 - if you are interested (If you get the answering machine, please leave your number and I will ring you back). We welcome all parishioners and their friends to all our activities.

MEDITATION SUPPORT GROUPS

Continuing on from the Parish Mission, two groups have now been formed to meet at 7.30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays in SFX parish hall. Each session will last one hour and initially will be based on Fr Justin's seminars and reflections. Newcomers always welcome. Anyone who wishes to further discuss daytime or smaller groups should contact Liz in the Parish Office on 9890 2231.

THERE IS AN EVER GROWING ASSORTMENT OF CROCKERY, BASKETS, TEA TOWELS, ETC, ACCUMULATING IN THE TUCKSHOP. PLEASE TAKE YOURS HOME ASAP!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday during Lent @

7.30pm in both churches.

Volunteers are needed to

lead the Stations of the Cross

each Friday during Lent at

7.30pm at SFX. Please call

the Parish Office 9890 2231.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF PARISHIONERS - LENT 2009

The Lenten season has a two-fold character:

- (1) it recalls baptism or prepares for it;
- (2) it stresses a penitential spirit.

Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer.

During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual, but also external and social...The paschal fast should be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of Fasting & Abstinence from meat. On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing anyone of the following: **Prayer; Self-Denial; Helping Others.**

All who have completed their 18th year & have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain. (*Canon 1252*)

R.C.I.A

Joining the RCIA team has been an ongoing learning journey of faith for me. When we married, my husband showed an interest in learning more of the faith I claimed as my own and last Easter he became a Catholic. For both of us, joining the RCIA program has been a life changing experience and has brought us closer together. Each of our new candidates has a unique story on why they want to become a catholic and you will hear their stories in the weeks to come, but I ask you to think what it must be like not to have been brought up a catholic, to reach out, search out, the catholic faith and take those first steps to inquiry and then the commitment to changing their lives. As they attend the Rite of Election Mass at St Patrick's this weekend, please remember them in your prayers. ~ Lisa Norton

Bushfire Message Book

Please add your condolence message or signature to the *Bushfire Message Book in the Church* which will be a lasting record of the nation's support & sympathy for all communities affected by the fires.

My corner I'd like to have attached a pin to each copy of this newsletter with the prayer: "Stick a pin in me, Lord. Keep me awake and alert."

It seems to me that very quickly we become numb to the things that are going on around us. As I write this on Friday morning, I'm not too sure what the day will bring with bushfires. But during the last week, with the National Day of Mourning over, the news paper reports quietening down, and people beginning to get on with their lives, I've felt more distanced from our crisis, somewhat numb and vague about it all. And it goes for lots of other things as well. The financial dramas at the end of last year had us all reeling. I was shocked and distressed about what was happening with my superannuation and hopes for retirement. Things haven't really changed, but I feel disinterested in all that. Sometimes I get wound up about a certain issue—the environment for one. Well, I am good at recycling, I save water, I have my car serviced regularly—I think I am doing my bit. But the world is still falling apart around me, and my deep concern has taken a side step and I worry about other things. Even in little ways I find myself quickly desensitized to a problem. I may go to the supermarket and see that I can buy imported tomatoes much cheaper than local ones. I'll never buy those I say. Yet on a day when I'm feeling thrifty, or just don't think, I can easily just pick up the cheaper brand. I wonder if all of us—the hundreds who came to Mass on Ash Wednesday—will be numb about Lent and it's meaning by next week? Will we have forgotten our hopes and dreams, our promises? Stay awake and beware of the pin!

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

PROJECT COMPASSION FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, 1 MARCH



The good news of the Gospel challenges us to change ourselves and our world for the better. This

week's story takes us to rural Uganda where Teopista lives with her family. Life here is often a daily struggle. Caritas Australia is supporting 900 subsistence farming families, including Teopista's, with practical training in sustainable agriculture to improve their livelihoods. Your generous donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion allow subsistence farmer families to gain skills to increase their household food security and offers hope for a healthier future.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009

Papua New Guinea
In Christ, Many Members Yet One Body



On March 6, 2009, the women of Papua New Guinea invite us to have the confidence of Ruth, who left what was familiar to her and went with Naomi to another land. They call us to ponder the mystery of our oneness in Christ in their context and our own.

We thank you, God, for directing our lives. As women united as one in your body, with your love and your power in us, we pray that we would be your instruments for peace and reconciliation.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
28 WATTS ST, BOX HILL
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
9.30AM MORNING TEA
10.00AM SERVICE

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

You may be able to assist communities affected by the bushfire disaster.

Fr Greg Bourke, Bushfire Recovery Chaplain for the Archdiocese of Melbourne is calling for volunteers on behalf of the Victorian Council of Churches.

Forms are in the foyer of the church.

If you can volunteer to help, fill in the Bushfire Recovery Volunteer Form & return it to the Parish Office or hand it at Mass.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED—Volunteers are required to help out at the Mont Albert shop located in Hamilton St, Mont Albert. Further information is available from the Manager, Geraldine Grimmatt at the shop on 9898 0720. Any help would be much appreciated.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MARCH 8 Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm J Wells, R Meyers, M O'Brien, J&S Arcuri
8.00am C Chin, J Reid
10.00am M Sinclair, K de Lacy, M Chan, D Stephens, E&E VDW, G Augustin

5.00pm Ministers of the Word

6.00pm E Colafella, M Rossely
8.00am F Neyland
10.00am L Hughes, M Hughes

5.00pm T Parker, K Ooi

Welcomers

6.00pm T Chia, M Rossely
10.00am G Augustin, P Turner

Children's Liturgy

Altar Linen

March 1 C Pollocks
March 8 U Clifford

Counters

March 1 T&E O'Brien
March 8 J Reid, M Rossely

Collectors 5pm

March 1 L Soulsby
March 8 I Mahlstedt

Rosary Statue

March 1—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
March 8—as above

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

March 1 G Tabacchiera
March 8 D Amato

Lettori

March 1 M Salamone, D Amato
March 8 C Gibillini, P Grech

Ministri dell'Eucarista

March 1 R Bidinoost, G Tabacchiera
March 8 M Casamento, M Salamone

ST CLARE'S—MARCH 8

Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McMahon, T Nicholson, D Hayes
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
J Murphy, I D'Amato, F Fitzgerald, J Easdown, T Shallvey, P Ciccotosto, H Keown

Piety Stall—March 8

9.00am D Tan

YEAR OF ST PAUL

We may be certain that he will not refuse anything he can.

Rom 8:32

From Fr Ben

You should not criticize anyone until you have walked a mile in their shoes—because if you do that you are a mile away, and you've got their shoes!

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.