



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 13th, 2008—Year A

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

Mass of Freedom—6pm & 9.30am

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

In my justice I shall see your face, O Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

Psalm Response

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow even finds a home, the swallow finds a nest wherein to place her young, near to your altars, Lord of hosts, my King, my God! How happy they who dwell in your house! For ever they are praising you.

This week

Try to be rich soil this week, not just for the word of God but also for those around you.



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.

PILGRIMAGE

(Continuing with excerpts from Joyce Rupp's book "Walk in a Relaxed Manner—Life Lessons from the Camino")

Chapter 15. "Look for unannounced angels" Joyce and her travel companion, Tom, continue on their pilgrimage on the Camino.

After leaving a town, they realized that there were no markers along the track, and soon became anxious about being lost. In the distance, they saw someone who they took to be a pilgrim, striding ahead of them.

They decided to follow him, and they noticed that he seemed aware of their presence, slowing down every so often so they could keep up, but never enough for them to come near enough to start up a conversation.

"Like the two on the road to Emmaus, Tom and I pondered that unusual event. How was it, I marveled as we walked along, that the stranger came by just at the moment of our need? How kind that he called to us to follow him. What caused him to slow his pace so we could keep up with him? Why did he care enough about us to even bother to show us the alternative route? We both felt a certain mystical aura about the experience, almost as if the man was an angel sent to make our journey easier.

By mid-morning we finally found a place where we could stop for coffee. The rain continued so we took off our wet backpacks and left them outside the front entrance. We stepped inside and to our surprise we saw our "angel". We went over to him and thanked him for his kindness. One of us mentioned how grateful we were that he slowed his pace for us. At this he laughed a little uneasily and muttered "Don't read more into this than it is." He followed by saying it was only his mood that led him to walk slowly.

His comment broke the mystical spell, but I still felt some divine intervention had blessed us. Although the tall man did not believe he was an instrument of God's goodness that day, we certainly did. This incident led me to think about how this sort of experience is actually more common than is supposed. People may not deliberately intend to be an instrument of God but they often are, without their realizing it."

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Parish of St Clare

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This newsletter is also available on our website:
www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Rom 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

Mt 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow.

Monday

Is 1:10-17; Mt 10:34 -11:1

Tuesday—St Bonaventure

Is 7:1-9; Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday

Is 10:5-7, 13-16; Mt 11:25-27

Thursday

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Mt 11:28-30

Friday

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Mt 12:1-8

Saturday

Micah 2:1-5; Mt 12:14-21

NEXT SUNDAY

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis 12:13, 16-19

Rom 8:26-27

Mt 13:24-43

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*
Clare Hangan *Monique Waring*
Trish Nicholson (Chair)

Next meeting : August 7

Liturgy Times

St Clare's

Sunday 8.30 am, 10.30am

Weekdays:

Wed, Fri & Sat 9.05 am

Confessions Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 7.30 am

9.30am

(Italian) 11.00 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

IN THE PARISHES THIS WEEK:

Sunday 13 July		DAYS IN THE DIOCESE MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
Monday 14 July TERM 3 BEGINS	8.30am	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME.
Tuesday 15 July ST BONAVENTURE	12.45pm 7.30pm	WORLD YOUTH DAY BEGINS IN SYDNEY LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA TEAM MEETING (SFX PHMR)
Wednesday 16 July	8.30am	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)
Thursday 17 July	1.30pm	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—BINGO IN SFX HALL
Friday 18 July	3pm-3.30pm 7.30pm-9pm	PRAYERS IN SFX CHURCH FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 19 July	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE— ALL WELCOME!



WORLD YOUTH DAY—SCHEDULE OF SBS TELEVISION'S COVERAGE:

Tuesday 15 July

2:30pm – 3:00pm—Highlights: Journey of
the Cross & Icon

3:00pm – 6:00pm—LIVE: Opening Mass of
Welcome – celebrated by Cardinal George
Pell, Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, and
Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko of the Vatican.

Wednesday 16 July

5:30pm – 6:00pm—Highlights: Opening
Mass of Welcome

Thursday 17 July

2:00pm – 5:00pm—LIVE coverage of the
arrival of Pope Benedict XVI

5:00pm – 5:30pm—Highlights: Catechesis
session

5:30pm – 6:00pm—Pilgrim's Walkabout –

Friday 18 July

2:30pm – 3:00pm—Highlights coverage of
the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI

3:00pm – 6:00pm—LIVE coverage of the
Stations of the Cross beginning from the
steps of St Mary's Cathedral and ending at
Cockle Bay, Darling Harbour.

Saturday 19 July

5:30pm – 6:00pm—Highlights: Stations of
the Cross

Sunday 20 July

9:15am – 12:30pm—LIVE coverage of the
Papal Mass from Randwick Racecourse

12:30pm – 1:30pm—Highlights of the Papal
Vigil

7:30pm – 8:00pm—Highlights of the Papal
Mass

Monday 21 July

5:00pm – 6:00pm—Highlights of the World
Youth Day Celebrations

WARMEST THANKS to the faithful & hardy
welcomers who are braving the coldest
winds & draughtiest pockets of our
entrances to welcome the congregation to
Masses. We are graced & blessed by your
sense of true hospitality.

Thank you to those people who have
volunteered to train as **ALTAR SERVERS**.
Training will be organised through the
school for SFX students. Other sessions will
be held as soon as Fr Anthony returns from
World Youth Day—Saturday mornings are
suggested—we will notify you of the dates.

PRAYERS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMS IN SFX CHURCH—FRIDAY 18th JULY FROM 3.00-3.30pm.

THERE IS A REQUEST FOR A DRIVER
ON WEDNESDAY EVERY 5 WEEKS OR
SO TO COLLECT ST CLARE'S SENIORS
& RETURN THEM HOME AFTER
ATTENDING A SOCIAL GATHERING AT
THE PARISH HOUSE. Please contact:
Angela McGovern, Denise Hayes or Bev
Poynton.

**NEW THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPES & RECEIPTS ARE
AVAILABLE IN BOTH CHURCHES.
IF YOU PAY BY CREDIT CARD OR
DIRECT DEBIT, PLEASE COLLECT
YOUR RECEIPT TODAY.**

From Fr Ben

*Received a very good letter dated 22/6/08,
and would like to discuss it if person
doesn't mind.*

RCIA TEAM MEETING for new and interested members will be held on Tuesday July 15 at 7.30 pm, Parish House Meeting Room. Coming along doesn't mean you are committed to anything—we would appreciate your input.

ADULT EDUCATION

In a bid to grow in our understanding about current church issues and teachings, we will be commencing a small discussion group **on the second Thursday of each month** in St Francis Xavier Parish Meeting Room. **Next meeting: 14th August—10-11.30am.**

FR BEN LENT A COPY OF "THE GIFT OF PEACE" BY CARDINAL BERNADIN TO A GOOD, HONEST PERSON. SINCE THE BOOK DOES NOT BELONG TO HIM, HE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

My corner

Those of you who have been on holidays this week may not have been too pleased to see the rain.

I, however, have been viewing it as a gift from God, aware of farmers who have been anxiously scanning skies for clouds, of crops just beginning to shoot through the soil, of the ongoing discussions about importing food from other countries, devastated rivers and our need to cut back on everything from petrol to food costs to carbon emissions. We could certainly be feeling dull and gloomy in the overall climate of life, without blaming the weather for low spirits. I have a pair of red gumboots, and I admit to splashing in puddles this week, just for the fun of it. It seems to have been so long since we had water lying around. Our water tanks are full again, and I have allowed myself the indulgence of letting the water from the shower flow down the drain for two days in a row rather than bucketing it out on to the garden. I have had a little holiday without even having a holiday! I'm definitely not feeling glum or bored, though aware of our pilgrims arriving to less than perfect weather conditions. I keep on reassuring myself that surely they must be used to rain and cold. Today's gospel is about seeds and planting, and the bounty of rain we have received this week surely makes a perfect recipe for planting seeds. The seeds we have to plant this week centre around hospitality and welcome, around our prayer for the success of World Youth Day, around our community. I see ample evidence of good healthy soil and refreshing rain in the generosity and excitement of parishioners as they make preparations to receive our guests and join in the celebrations. May the seeds you plant this week bring you joy and a sense of satisfaction.

fiz Clark, Pastoral Associate

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As I look back on our Camino days, many unannounced angels came into our lives at just the right time to help us with their considerate care; clerks, refugio directors and volunteers, waiters and waitresses, farmers and city folk, and, of course, all those pilgrims who stepped forth when we needed them most. As I look back in reflection on what happened with our many "angels" I realize how fortunate we were to have someone there for us at the exact moment when we needed them.

Since my return from the Camino, others have told me about strangers who offered them solace in a hospital emergency room, unknown people who stopped to help change a flat tire, unnamed persons who reached out to extend help or gave information at precisely the time of greatest need. These anonymous people rarely stayed for very long but their good deeds are tucked away in the hearts of those they assisted.

I have often wondered if people like the red-caped man..... knew how much their kindness mirrored divine benevolence. I doubt they did. I doubt that any of us are normally aware of having a profound effect on another unless someone tells us about it. We may do a good deed but unless the events are startling or unusual, they generally fade into life's experience without much of a second thought.

The Camino helped me believe in the unique way God moves in our lives through the presence of other human beings who show up at the right time. Even when these strangers are oblivious to how they are an instrument of good, they act in a manner surprisingly beneficial and helpful. We never know when someone we meet might be just the right person we need for the moment. We rarely expect unannounced angels in our midst but, oh, how wonderful they are when they show up to grace us with their gifts.

DIARY DATE

SUNDAY AUGUST 10 AFTER 10.30AM MASS, BBQ TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST CLARE. THE PARISH WILL PROVIDE SAUSAGES— PARISHIONERS ARE ASKED TO BRING SALADS & DESSERTS TO SHARE.

A new parishioners is urgently seeking a baby sitter for her 1 year old child on Wednesdays and Fridays while she is studying. Please phone the parish office if you can help.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-JULY 20

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm E Colafella, M&A O'Connor, E&A Fabian
 7.30am J Reid
 9.30am V&G Mooney, I Abraham, K Kirwan, P&R Cussen, G Augustin

5pm M Sleivison

Ministers of the Word

6pm M Rossely, R Meyers
 7.30am J Manshon
 9.30am J D'Souza, C Gately
 5pm E Umashankar, R Paul

Welcomers

6pm M Rossely, J Morison
 9.30am G Augustin, V&G Burns

Children's Liturgy

July 20—16th Sunday OT—Group B
 August 3—18th Sunday OT—First Eucharist

Altar Linen

July 13 L Chin
 July 20 I Balchin

Counters

July 13 R&Y Roy
 July 20 P McGlin, P Madzarevic

Collectors 5pm

July 13 A Cutts
 July 20 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

July 13—Mrs M La, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
 July 20—as above

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 13 J Adamo
 July 20 P Grech

Lettori

July 13 G Tabbachiera, G Amato
 July 20 A Lanza, L Ferola

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 13 M Casamento, R Bidinost
 July 20 M Salamone, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—JULY 20

Ministers of the Word

8.30 M Clark, A McGovern
 10.30 M Hardy, A Kenna

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am J Murphy, D Wolbers, P Wolbers
 10.30am D Hardy, D Tan, P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—July 20

8.30 Glass family 10.30 Farry family

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.

Would parishioners please note that it is preferable if Mass intentions are brought to the Parish House and entered into the diary kept for intentions. This will avoid, as much as is possible, any disappointment, when 2 or more intentions are requested for the same Mass.

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.