



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 20th, 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

God himself is my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will offer you a willing sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.

Psalm Response

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord keeps in our minds the wonderful things he has done. He is compassion and love; he always provides for his faithful.

This week

Be tolerant of the limitations of others this week, and try to rectify an imperfection in yourself.



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 excerpts from Joyce Rupp's *Walk in a Simple Manner—Life Lessons from the Camino*

Ch 19—Trust in the Divine Companion

(After a discouraging and difficult day.....)

"All the pilgrims helped to prepare the simple meal. What a challenge to do so in a kitchen with almost no utensils and dinnerware. We found an odd assortment of items: mostly tablespoons with which to eat our spaghetti, bowls and pan lids for plates, plastic glasses and odd-sized jelly glasses for wine. A large, beat-up tin tub held the lettuce and tomato salad with dressing. Everything tasted absolutely delicious and we ate voraciously. Amid much laughter and entertaining conversation, we discovered that it was Yvonne's birthday. We toasted her with what remained of our two superb and very inexpensive bottles of wine. It was my happiest meal on the Camino.

The experience of that evening meal taught me a lot about believing in God's care especially when external conditions point to the opposite. I became aware of how quickly my trust falters when things do not go as I hope. I too easily become discouraged when things do not go my way. To trust means relinquishing some of my strong need to have control when I face uncertainty and insecurity. My own strong efforts do not completely guarantee I will have inner serenity and peacefulness.

That surprising and wonderful meal at Eirexe also taught me that one ought never give up hope. Maintaining confidence is of utmost importance, no matter what the situation. The Camino reinforced a major lesson of life: the heart of the pilgrim journey is not about being anxious and fretful. It is about putting God first and trusting in this abiding presence and providence. With this faith-filled assurance, the peace of the Camino readily takes up residence in every pilgrim's heart.

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Box Hill 3128
Telephone 9890 2231
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www.scsfx.org.au

St FX 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 is also available on our website:
www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis 12:13, 16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance

Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

Mt 13:24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Monday

Micah 6:1-4, 6-8; Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday—St Mary Magdalene

Song 3:1-4 (Cor 5:14-17);

Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Wednesday

Jer 1:1, 4-10; Mt 13:1-9

Thursday

Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Mt 13:10-17

Friday—St James

2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28

Saturday—Ss Joachim & Ann

Jer 7:1-11; Mt 13:24-30

NEXT SUNDAY

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kg 3:5, 7-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

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*
Anthony Kennedy
Peter Leonard
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 20 July	12.30pm	WORLD YOUTH DAY PAPAL MASS—9.15AM MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 2 BAPTISMS @ SFX
Monday 21 July	8.30am 10.00am 4.00pm	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. CONTACT: OLIVE 9878 4103 CATECHETIC CLASSES RECOMMENCE AT ST CLARE'S
Tuesday 22 July	12.45pm 7.30pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA FIRST ENQUIRY NIGHT (SFX PHMR)
Wednesday 23 July	8.30am 9.00am 12.30pm 7.30pm	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST). FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE FIRST RECONCILIATION
Thursday 24 July	1.30pm 7.30pm	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—GUEST SPEAKER: MARTIN HARDY, RECIPIENT OF CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIP FOR 2008. FIRST RECONCILIATION
Friday 25 July ST JAMES	7.30pm-9pm	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 26 July Ss JOACHIM & ANN	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE— ALL WELCOME!



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

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**

**LINK TO YOUTUBE FOR POWER POINT
PRESENTATION FROM LAST SUNDAY'S
9.30AM MASS WITH THE PILGRIMS**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
v=R40Goain2Nc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R40Goain2Nc)

FROM PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Thank you to Parishioners and everyone else involved for anything and everything that was done either before, during or after the pilgrims were with us. The wonderful sense of community was evident and the weekend in particular was a true celebration. Special thanks to Kathy and Julian Sakowski, Di and Marty Hardy and their families, Fr Bob, Fr Ben, and Liz Clark.

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.

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.

THERE ARE PETITIONS AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCHES CALLING FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ACT IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The Racial Discrimination Act in the Northern Territory was suspended last year with the introduction of the Emergency Intervention. Its suspension is an issue for all Australians, Indigenous & Non-Indigenous. It is a human rights violation.

Please consider adding your name.

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

From Fr Ben

*I like to do all the talking myself.
It saves time and prevents arguments.
(Oscar Wilde)*

BE MY WITNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Next weekend our Parish will be holding the annual Catholic Mission Church Appeal. Please join in the spirit of World Youth Day and be Christ's witness the world over. Like Christ, we are called to make a true sacrifice, not just a simple gesture. Please be prepared for your offering and think twice, and then give from your heart. Your generosity is vital to our world. **Thanking you in advance.**

www.catholicmission.org.au
1800 257 296

Catholic Mission
www.catholicmission.org.au
Freecall 1800 257 296



ADULT EDUCATION

In a bid to grow in our understanding about current church issues and teachings, we are running 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

I have to admit to you all that prior to this week, I have been hugely sceptical about World Youth Day. In the past, I have listened to returning pilgrims, and the main things I've heard have been about toilet facilities (or lack of same), crowds, travel-related problems, how it was impossible to actually see the Pope. I had hoped for obvious signs of spiritual growth, and an ongoing enthusiasm for spreading the gospel to all and sundry. It has not been too obvious to me. As well, I have been horrified at the costs involved in this event—how many millions are they talking about? Last week's Days in the Diocese have changed this for me. Here I saw young people who have travelled so far in pilgrimage to attest to their faith, to share who they are and what they believe. I understand that our pilgrims met once each month for the past year to pray together, plan, discuss what pilgrimage is truly about, to share their hopes and dreams together. They are open to the ways the Spirit is leading them, not always in the direction they want to go. The high enthusiasm of public gatherings both in Melbourne and Sydney so far has been inspiring. The quiet moments of deep reverence I have witnessed have said more to me than the flag-waving and excitement of big rallies and long boring sermons. I pray that at WYD, the Spirit truly comes to inspire us all to a deeper involvement in our faith.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

MESSAGE FROM FR ANTHONI

I am having a wonderful time in Sydney. Meeting some great people and joining the pilgrims for various different activities. The opening mass for WYD was magnificent and I feel the last few days have given us all enthusiasm for the gospel and the Church.

The Franciscan event in Kedron went well and the "Come to water" event at Bondi Beach was attended by a few thousand. Thank you for your prayerful support. But I did feel left out when the pilgrims were in Box Hill last weekend after months of anticipation. I am waiting to catch up with you all and hear your stories too! I met Bishop Christopher Prowse who told me how the Box Hill parishes put on a great show of hospitality to the pilgrims. Congratulations and thank you.

YOUTH MASS

**Sunday 27th July at 5pm
at St Francis Xavier Church**

Followed by Pizza and Drinks and Discussion about what we would like to do in our parishes to hold onto the enthusiasm generated by World Youth Day.

Please let the Parish Office know if you are able to attend.

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.

St Dominic's Justice & Peace Group
invite you to the

Annual Justice & Peace Dinner
Mass violence ends - what next for the civilian population?

Guest Speaker – Fr Peter Hosking SJ
Peter Hosking is a clinical psychologist with particular experience as a trauma counsellor.. He has worked as the country director of Jesuit Refugee Services in Timor L'Este and in Australia.

Monday 28 July, 2008
7 pm for 7.30 start

in the Parish Centre, St Dominic's Church,
816 Riversdale Rd, Camberwell
(Melways 60 E2 – parking behind Church,
off Dominic St)

This is a shared meal. For further information about contributing please contact Kerry Nicholas 0439 039 171, nichnet@bigpond.net.au or Rosalie Walter 9888 6823
RSVP: 21 July, 2007 Note, our numbers are limited

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-JULY 27

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm S&J Arcuri, J Wells, A Leonard, J Morison,
7.30am B Reid
9.30am E Kimmet, E&E VDW, W Tan, M Sinclair, M Chan, K Fazio
5pm E Umashankar

Ministers of the Word

6pm M Jeffares, D Williamsz
7.30am F Neyland
9.30am GRADE 5
5pm M Waring, J O'Brien

Welcomers

6pm L Lampard, S&J Arcuri
9.30am GRADE 5

Children's Liturgy

August 10—19th Sunday OT—Group C
August 17—20th Sunday OT—Group A

Altar Linen

July 20 I Balchin
July 27 L Sanelli

Counters

July 20 P McGlin, P Madzarevic
July 27 J Butler, M Rossely

Collectors 5pm

July 20 L Soulsby
July 27 I Mahlestedt

Rosary Statue

July 20—Mrs M La, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
July 27—B&P Hine, 15 Hegend Rd, Mitcham

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

July 20 P Grech
July 27 G Amato

Lettori

July 20 A Lanza, L Ferola
July 27 M Salamone, C Chessari

Ministri dell'Eucarista

July 20 M Salamone, D Amato
July 27 G Massarotti, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—JULY 27

Ministers of the Word

8.30 P Fitzgerald, M Clark
10.30 K McDonald, M Hardy

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am E Lim, T Nicholson, P Fitzgerald
10.30am P Ciccotosto, P O'Brien, T Shallvey

Piety Stall—July 27

8.30 B Murphy 10.30 C Mirabella

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.

DAYS IN THE DIOCESE – BOX HILL STYLE

A corner would be a most inadequate space for cramming in the excitement, enthusiasm, joy and hope that permeated the parish during the pilgrims' visit prior to World Youth Day. From their arrival 1/2 an hour early to their departure 16 hours late, the impact of the pilgrims' presence was almost tangible. In the hall, there was a buzz of excited chat in various languages. The joie de vivre of these 50 young people seemed contagious. Cautious acceptance of welcome from host families turned into surprised pleasure when the pilgrims found they were to be in warm beds, would have hot showers, could use the internet and could even enjoy the food. This wasn't quite the end of the earth, though the long 12 hour haul from Toulouse to Paris, the flight from Paris to Sydney, another 12 hour bus ride Sydney to Melbourne had certainly felt like it.

Lunch on Friday was a welcome start for their experience of Days in the Diocese in Melbourne. They visibly relaxed over the meal, and were well prepared to head off into the city. They proudly held aloft the banners presented to them by the Mayor of Toulouse. At Telstra Dome, our group was so easy to spot with their distinctive red flags with the yellow Occitan cross, different from 100s of others around the arena. Very quickly

I felt a real sense of belonging and being part of our pilgrims each time I caught sight of their flag waving excitedly. The Mass at Telstra Dome was alive and deeply meaningful, energized by the participation, the amazing visual effects, and the singing and chanting and Mexican waves, as well as the silent moments of reverence, of adoration, of active and energized faith. The train trip to and from the city was somewhat different from the normal commuter boredom—songs and games and dancing and music, and the chatter of dozens of different languages—faces alive and excited, despite the weariness and jet lag.

On Saturday morning, early Mass was a fitting start for the day, and Bishop Hervé Gaschignard touched all our hearts with his gentleness and sincerity, and his obvious love and concern for his pilgrims. The church was full of people, parishioners and pilgrims mingling together. It was also full of the aroma of the great Aussie barbeque, a breakfast more for kings than for pilgrims. Host families, children, pilgrims and parishioners mingled, ate together, and shared conviviality, prior to the arrival of the Bush Babies wildlife exhibit. The pilgrims loved our native creatures—wallaby, possum, crocodile, snakes, tawny frogmouth, wombat..... They spent a long time patting and holding and taking photos. This was a great initiative. In the meantime, the mountains of dishes were scoured and dried and put away with remarkable efficiency, by just anyone who was there—there was no roster, just generous volunteers.

Saturday afternoon was free—some pilgrims went to Healesville, a few to the zoo, most into the city, full of enthusiasm to see what Melbourne and its people is really about. Some host families shared special dinners at home or in restaurants, others went to the footy. This was a day to enjoy Melbourne and Australian life. All, I'm sure, were grateful to be in bed at the end of a happy and busy day.

On Sunday, the 9.30 parish Mass was a wonderful celebration of the universal church. It was fascinating to see how we are the same and how we are different. So much in common, so much familiar, so much that makes us all part of the church. The differences seemed to be merely cultural or lingual, and added to rather than took from the ways we celebrate our God. It was a great experience to hear parts of the Mass in French, and parts in English. The music at Mass deserves special mention, and the involvement of so many of our young people.

After a great morning tea that just 'appeared', the pilgrims headed into the Cathedral for the inter-church rally, and to present a statue of Our Lady they had brought from Toulouse to the Archdiocese. Bishop Prowse, who grew up in this parish, was most gracious in accepting the statue and then presenting it to our parish. One thing really amused me in the Cathedral, prior to the walk to Federation Square. Prayers were read in various languages, and the French pilgrims were so obviously proud of their Bishop who had to read the Italian prayers, as there seemed to be no Italian people there. They thought he was so clever, and smiles and nods interchanged indicated their warm and genuine affection for him.

The Interchurch rally was somewhat disappointing if one gauges these things by numbers or attendance. Enthusiasm was high, however, and the pilgrims enjoyed their time in the city, despite their uncertainty about the clever and profound words coming from various speakers. The atmosphere of 100s of groups of pilgrims inter-mingling was most engaging—exhilarating, really. One could easily see that this wasn't just a trip to Oz—that faith is a high priority for these people.

Monday morning's Mass was largely in French, and it was wonderful to hear the voices of our visitors raised in praise of God. The Bishop presented the statue of Mary to our parish in a more formal way. One of the most poignant moments of the whole few days was when the Aussies then the French sang the "Hail Mary" - it was a simple, graceful, grace-filled moment.

After mingling with the school children, the pilgrims spent the day in the city, together discovering more about Bl Mary McKillop, with mounting excitement for the next step of their journey. Back to our hall for tea, and the expected departure around 7 pm. No bus arrived. I can't imagine what it was like—the disappointment, the frenzied phone calls, adaptation to more changes and disruption and dragging baggage yet again to another venue.

A very subdued group reassembled after a night at the Tudor Motel and apartments. I think they wondered if there'd ever be a bus. I tiptoed into Mass, celebrated by Bishop Hervé, surrounded by his pilgrims, This was a time for them to recall why they were here, to deal with the disappointment, to re-focus, to be reminded that pilgrimage is not necessarily all easy. As they left the church, I heard the Bishop say "God is good, but I don't know what he is doing." He walked off with his arms around the shoulders of two of his youngest travellers, reassuring them and making them laugh again. What a leader!

Eventually, the bus arrived, 16 hours late. Final farewells were exchanged, and the next stage of the pilgrimage began, accompanied by our wishes of "God speed", "travel carefully", "au revoir."

So that's briefly what happened for the pilgrims. What about for our parish? The whole year of planning came to fruition with these days of celebration, of welcome and hospitality. We owe an unending vote of thanks to Julian and Kathy Sakowski and to Di and Marty Hardy (and their families) for their detailed organisation, for their capable handling of all that was thrown at them, for their (apparent) calm and happiness, no matter what happened. They have been inspirational, and deserve our warmest thanks.

Loaves and fishes—we've heard of that. Well, in the parish, food was available in such quantities, brought along, paid for, cooked, presented with pride, cleaned and washed up—everyone just did what needed to be done. If food is any indication of hospitality, we did exceptionally well. Thank you, everyone.

Our host families were brilliant, dealing with language differences (or no shared language), odd requests, getting people to the right place at the right time, show-casing Melbourne/Box Hill, answering questions. They largely reported on how graced they were by the pilgrims' presence, and we acknowledge how graced we are with your generosity and warmth. I'd like to acknowledge as well, those who offered their homes, but weren't needed to host.

The liturgy was well prepared, but we needed to learn to be adaptable, and did so with good grace and humour. Special thanks to our musicians for their commitment and skills, and willingness to take on new things. We hope our young people will continue to accompany us musically at Mass on a regular basis.

Fr Ben and Fr Bob provided warm hospitality to all, but especially to Bishop Hervé and those who called in to the Parish House. The parish staff have excelled in courtesy, welcome, answering difficult questions, being available and adaptable, and prepared for any and every thing. Many, many thanks. Fr Anthoni phoned a number of times over these days, busy with Franciscan commitments, but obviously missing an involvement here. He continually assured us of his prayerful support.

At the Mass on Monday, the Bishop spoke about the hymn we used "Companions on a journey." He commented how we had all been in this together, how we all treasure the same faith, how we believe in the journey and in our giftedness to one another. He used the words of the gospel "*If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward*" to assure us that our reward will be great because of the warmth and generosity of our welcome and service to the pilgrims.

Before I conclude, I need to mention three other things—Thanks to Trish Nicholson, chairperson of the PPC, for her words of welcome and encouragement, so eloquently presented on our behalf. As well, did you know that we are on Youtube? See how much we enjoyed ourselves. And, please continue to pray for Charles, the leader of the group, who has returned to France for urgent surgery. And we extend a special vote of thanks to Mary and Neil Blundy for their ongoing care for Charles over the last week.

Personally, I want to add that I am immensely proud to be part of this community, and especially thrilled that because of the way things happened this weekend, we can so easily see that we are one community—not just two parishes. We have big hearts, open arms, generous spirits. We are truly a people who have received the power of the Holy Spirit and have been strong and true witnesses to our faith in Jesus Christ.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU