



# Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the  
Franciscan Friars*

**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 17th, 2008—Year A**

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

God, our protector, keep us in mind;  
always give strength to your people.  
For if we can be with you even one  
day, it is better than a thousand  
without you.

Psalm Response

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the  
kingdom and healed all who were sick.  
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

With the Lord there is mercy, and  
fullness of redemption.

**This week**

The Gospel is universal.

It is for all people.

Are there ways you can participate  
in spreading the Gos  
pel, even in small ways this week?  
The best way to do this is by living  
the Gospel.

Try to include an outsider.

**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.

All of us struggle with persistence. We get serious about losing weight, but then give up when it doesn't come off fast enough or we reach a plateau. Our doctor recommends exercise, and we do so for a few days after the doctor visit and then go back to life as usual.

Just as difficult (perhaps even more so) is persistence in prayer, in good works, or with any spiritual discipline. Sometimes sheer persistence brings us to great faith, which establishes the intimate relationship with Jesus, bringing salvation to all who seek him.

The woman approaches Jesus, but is not initially welcomed. Still she persists in her request. She is absolutely single-minded. In this the woman in the gospel demonstrates something significant about faith: sheer persistence matters. Although rebuffed by disciples and ignored by Jesus, she persists with surprising results. Her dogged persistence is recognised by Jesus for what it truly is – great faith (the only person in Matthew's Gospel who is praised for great faith) – and Jesus does have pity on her. Rather than being sent away without her request fulfilled, the woman's persistent faith moves Jesus to grant her request: "the woman's daughter was healed."

The gospel story reveals something else besides persistence with respect to having great faith. Notice the wording of the woman's request to Jesus: "Have pity on *me*, Lord, Son of David!" since she is asking for healing for her daughter, one would expect the request to be worded as a desire for Jesus to have pity on the daughter. Yet the woman is revealing her own pain in begging for Jesus' pity. What loving parent would not empathise with a child as does this gospel woman. What parent would not suffer when the child suffers? Such empathy and pain at the suffering of another is also indicative of great faith, for the gospel woman is someone who is not self-centred but is centred on another (her daughter). The woman models someone who is self-giving in the relationships that are part of everyday life. Because of such intimate relationship, empathy, and self-giving, when her daughter is healed, she is also healed.

The surprise of the gospel is a new insight into how one comes to salvation: through great faith manifested by sheer persistence and by empathy for the pain and suffering of others. Jesus extends salvation to all who have great faith, not just to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." **Living Liturgy**

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This newsletter is also  
available on our website:  
[www.scsfx.org.au](http://www.scsfx.org.au)

READINGS FOR  
THIS WEEK  
20th SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

Is 56:1-6-7

*I will lead the foreigners to my  
holy mountain.*

Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

*The gifts and call of God are  
irrevocable.*

Mt 15:21-28

*Woman, you have great faith.*

**Monday**

Ezek 24:15-24; Mt 19:16-22

**Tuesday**

Ezek 28:1-10; Mt 19:23-30

**Wednesday—St Bernard**

Ezek 34:1-11; Mt 20:1-16

**Thursday—St Pius X**

Ezek 36:23-28; Mt 22:1-14

**Friday—Queenship of Mary**

Ezek 37:1-14; Mt 22:34-40

**Saturday**

Ezek 43:1-7; Mt 23:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY  
21st SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

Is 22:19-23;

Rom 11:33-36;

Mt 16:13-20

## 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 : September 4**

## 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:

<b>Sunday 17 August</b>	<b>12.30pm</b>	<b>MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA BAPTISM AT SFX</b>
<b>Monday 18 August</b>	<b>8.30am 10.00am  4.00pm</b>	<b>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 HALL. CONTACT: THERESE 9878 3706 CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S</b>
<b>Tuesday 19 August</b>	<b>12.45pm 7.30pm</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY AT SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM</b>
<b>Wednesday 20 August</b>	<b>8.30am ST BERNARD 9.00am  12.30pm</b>	<b>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</b>
<b>Thursday 21 August</b>	<b>1.30pm 7.30pm</b>	<b>AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—SION COLLEGE ORCHESTRA. SOCIAL COMMITTEE—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM</b>
<b>Friday 22 August</b>	<b>7.30pm-9pm</b>	<b>BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE</b>
<b>Saturday 23 August</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE— ALL WELCOME!</b>
<b>SUNDAY 24 AUGUST</b>	<b>5PM</b>	<b>MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR DID &amp; WYD 08 YOUNG PEOPLE, HOST FAMILIES &amp; VOLUNTEERS.</b>

My experience of World Youth Day 2008 was amazing. It was amazing to meet so many people and to get to know the other groups from Antioch Victoria. We were supposed to leave at 7.45am but there was a mix up with the bus and we did not leave till 2.30pm. The trip took 14 hours with 3 stops along the way at Wangaratta, Holbrook and Goulburn. I did not get much sleep on the bus. At 4.30am we arrived at St Joe's/ St Mary's in Maroubra where we stayed. We slept on cold classroom floors. We woke up on Tuesday to find that our luggage did not arrive and did not for another 2 days. One by one everyone was starting to get sick and we couldn't do as done as much as we would have liked.

The showers were wood boxes with 3 showerheads and lukewarm water. For transport we received a weekly public travel pass. We had food tokens and were served in groups of 6. The crowds in Sydney were huge and everyone got along well. It was early Saturday morning when we woke at 6am to get ready and headed off for the pilgrim walk to Randwick. We arrived there at 1pm and I went to sleep because I had not had much the other night.

We had mass with the Pope and then went back to sleep. The weather was cold. In the night there were bands playing. On Sunday at 10am the Pope did 2 laps of Randwick Racecourse and I took a few photos, then he lead the final mass. I got an ear infection and collapsed and had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. When I was sick everyone was very helpful.

It was hard leaving my friends behind but I will stay in touch with them.

The Christian Spirit was shown to be alive and well. There was no trouble in the crowd even in the cramped quarters.

*Michael Roche*



## AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—NEXT WEEK

Visit to St Francis Church, Melbourne for Mass at 11am, followed by lunch at venue of your choice. Meet at Box Hill Station at 10am.

If anyone has taken home tea towels or aprons from the tuckshop to wash, would they please return them to the tuckshop or the parish office as soon as possible.

## CATECHETIC CLASSES

There will be a Parent Meeting on Monday 25th August at 7.30pm at St Clare's. THERE WILL BE NO CLASS ON THAT MONDAY AFTERNOON.

## A DAY OF REFLECTION WITH BISHOP GEOFFREY ROBINSON

Saturday 23 August 9.30am-3.30pm at The Centre for Theology & Ministry, 1 Morrison Close, Parkville

## POINTS TO PONDER

At Mass, when we have the offertory procession, do we consider what we are offering to God? What is the significance of bread and wine? What part of us is offered with these gifts?

*From Fr Ben*

*Do you think you've learned from your mistakes? What mistakes?*

*(Leslie Caron)*

**Congratulations to the following children who are receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time this weekend.**

**Saturday 16th August**

Kallum Parlevliet  
Michael Kennedy

Nathan Tran  
Bernadette Yip

**FAIR TRADE  
COFFEE FROM  
ETHIOPIA NOW  
AVAILABLE FROM  
SFX PARISH  
HOUSE**



[ethiopia.com.au](http://ethiopia.com.au) brings you the Sidamo and Harar regional types – Sidamo from southern Ethiopia, Harar from the east. **Sidamo is a very smooth pleasant strong coffee. Harar is a very strong coffee, and the original mocha style, and blends superbly with Sidamo.**

Fairtrade coffee is Certified Organic and Fairtrade Sidamo. Fairtrade guarantees a just return to the grower, as the grower group exports directly to overseas buyers. An additional Fairtrade Premium levy provides extra funds for socially important programs to the grower cooperatives. Fairtrade is an important way forward to assist with re-aligning trade to bring a just return for poor coffee farmers. The coffee is a mild roast.

**Fairtrade Sidamo or Harar:  
250 gram ground \$7 ea**

**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 House Meeting Room.

**Next meeting: 11th September  
10-11.30am  
ALL WELCOME!**

**BOTTLED WATER**

Bottled water is now big business. In Australia 150 million litres is consumed a year at a cost of \$123 million. This may seem odd when most people can turn on a tap and get a drink of water for virtually nothing. According to the Sunday Age calculations, Australia's love affair with bottled water is costing the planet 314,000 barrels of oil a year. That's how much of one of the world's most precious resources it takes to package, ship and refrigerate a product that is already piped to every single suburban premises for next to nothing.



**An overview**

- Is bottled water any healthier than tap water? NO. Tap water generally has to comply with strict standards and it is thoroughly tested.
- Does bottled water taste better? Our taste panel couldn't distinguish between either of the two leading brands of bottled water (Mount Franklin and Frantelle) and Sydney tap water. It may be different in other places.
- In addition to the water in bottles, twice as much water is used in the production process. Every litre sold represents three litres of water.
- Bottled water can be a handy alternative to soft drinks or juice when you're out and about, and it has no kilojoules.

**Some bottled risks**

- Once you've opened a bottle of water it's safest to keep it in the fridge as bacteria levels increase if left opened at room temperature.
- Bottled water may deprive people of the fluoride that's added to tap water in most places to increase the resistance of teeth to decay.
- On the positive side, there's no substance to fears that bottled water is contaminated with toxic chemicals from the plastic bottle.

**What does this mean for us?**

Encourage your family and friends to buy bottled water if they like the taste, but avoid thinking that it is healthier than water from the tap. Nutritionists tell us to drink 8 glasses of water a day, drink tap water rather than purchasing bottled water.

***Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.***

*Sarah Menassa, Promoter of JPIC, Franciscan Provincial Office*

**ROSTERS**

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-AUGUST 24**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

6pm A Leonard, M Rossely, S&J Arcuri, M Slevison  
7.30am S Carney  
9.30am M Chan, M Mackay, I Abraham, M Sinclair, P McLaughlin, F Fitzgerald, M Soulsby

5pm P Aldag

**Ministers of the Word**

6pm M Doods, M Williamsz  
7.30am F Neyland  
9.30am A M Diggins, K de Lacy  
5pm Special Roster

**Welcomers**

6pm P Shepherd, M Rossely  
9.30am P&F Fitzgerald

**Children's Liturgy**

August 24—21st Sunday OT—Group B  
August 31—22nd Sunday OT—Group C

**Altar Linen**

August 17 Faye Neyland  
August 24 Rhosheen Meyers

**Counters**

August 17 P McLaughlin, G Kitch  
August 24 T&E O'Brien

**Collectors 5pm**

August 17 L Soulsby  
August 24 I Mahlstedt

**Rosary Statue**

August 17—M&B Mahoney, 15 Irvine St  
August 24—L&D Mayne

**ITALIAN MASS**

**Commentator**

August 17 G Amato  
August 24 G Tabbachiera

**Lettori**

August 17 R Bidinost, C Gibillini  
August 24 A Dinardo, A Basile

**Ministri dell'Eucarista**

August 17 C Chessari, G Massarotti  
August 24 D Amato, G Tabbachiera

**ST CLARE'S—AUGUST 24**

**Ministers of the Word**

8.30 A McGovern, J Sakowski  
10.30 K McDonald, M Hardy

**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

8.30am E Lim, J Easdown, A McGovern  
10.30am I D'Amato, D Hardy, P O'Brien

**Piety Stall—August 24**

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.**

**My corner**

We had a wonderful holiday in Fiji, and I know I've come back looking as if I've spent a month in a solarium. Sorry to all those pale skinned people who really have been suffering through this long cold winter—but I can assure you that I have really felt it over the last few days. From 32 deg each day to 5- 13 is hard to take. Over the whole time we were away the only disappointment we experienced was last Sunday, when we decided to attend the church service on the island. I know that we often set ourselves up for something less if we have high expectations of an event. We had hoped to hear some wonderful Fijian singing, and to find this hour a time for reflection and thanks for all that we had experienced to date. The congregation was about 30 tourists and 10 Fijian people. The hymns were from an 1930's Presbyterian hymn book (mostly written in the 1700's I think). The minister seemed to be very much the blood and thunder-type homilist. There was one reading in very hesitant English, all the rest of the service was in the local language. Finding God in this wasn't so easy. Then a little girl (about 4) passed the offering bowl around (a coconut on a piece of wood). She smiled at us, and reminded us so quickly of the beauty and joy of life. It was much easier to pray after that. I was reminded, as Jesus teaches us in today's gospel, that despite all difference, we are all one—we worship the same God, we share our common humanity, we each have a place in God's kingdom.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*