

Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 24th, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Listen, Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you. I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord.

Psalm Response

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Lord, the earth is filled with your gift from heaven; man grows bread from earth, and wine to cheer his heart.

This week

How does being a disciple of Jesus influence the way you use your authority. In your home? In your workplace? In the daily decisions you make? Exercise that responsibility this week.

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.

Upon this rock I will build my church
Since I returned from the World Youth Day in Sydney I have been very busy, but it is all good and exciting news. However, there are some challenges too for our community. We are in the final stage of our school building process and hopefully soon we might be able to begin our building project. Finally I got something from the architect in terms of St Francis Xavier church refurbishment. In the next couple of weeks we will talk about what needs to be done and how we are going to go about doing it. So it is all happening, but this conversation has been long overdue and needs to be translated into action. The Maintenance Committee and Finance Committee have been working in the background in the past few years and things had just stalled for a long while, now we are back in motion!

I strongly believe this building time is an important time for our community; the school caters for both parishes and there is a need to develop our school facilities. St Francis Xavier Church badly needs some work done and we have postponed it for a very long time.

Whatever are we planning to do now should serve the worshipping community for the next twenty to thirty years. I hope that this time of building and refurbishment can be a time of rebuilding our community too, which comprises of many small communities within our parishes and that we can gather them under the three big umbrellas: St Clare's, St Francis Xavier's and the school community. I hope this will also be a time for us to build stronger relationships among our parishioners and between the different groups. I invite all parishioners to take ownership of this new school building and the church refurbishment.

Through our baptism we are called to be the Body of Christ, the people of God, the sacrament of unity. This is apparent when we gather for liturgy. Our churches have continued to be the centre in the lives of people and we want to make it an environment that is welcoming, engaging, and prayerful, but also a place where the community celebrates its faith.

At the back of St Francis Xavier Church we have the floor plan for the church and the site plan, please have a look at them, reflect and discuss them. We will gather for a meeting soon.

Fr Anthony OFM

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK
21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 22:19-23

I place the key of the house of David upon his shoulders.

Rom 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Mt 16:13-20

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Monday

2Thess1:1-5, 11-12; Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday

2Thess2:1-3, 14-17; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday—St Monica

2 Thess 3:6-10, 16-18; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday—St Augustine

1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51

Friday—Beheading of John the Baptist

Jer 1:17-19; Mk 6:17-29

Saturday

1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30

NEXT SUNDAY

22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer 20: 7-9; Rom 12: 1-2;

Mt 16: 21-27

Friars of the Parishes

Fr Anthoni 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

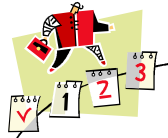
St Clare's—2nd Sunday, 11.30 am

IN THE PARISHES THIS WEEK:

Sunday 24 August	12.30pm 5.00pm	MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA BAPTISM AT SFX THANKSGIVING MASS FOR DID & WORLD YOUTH DAY
Monday 25 August	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 @ ST CLARE'S HALL. CONTACT: THERESE 9878 3706 MEETING FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN IN CATECHETIC CLASSES IN ST CLARE'S HALL
Tuesday 26 August	12.45pm 7.30pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY AT SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
Wednesday 27 August	8.30am 9.00am 12.30pm	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
Thursday 28 August	1.30pm	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—CHAT & CHEW. BYO CRAFT
Friday 29 August	7.30pm-9pm	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 30 August	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE—ALL WELCOME!

EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISER ECO PASTORAL PROJECT FRIENDSHIP/ FOOD/ FUN

Please consider gathering a group of friends together to share a meal and donate towards our partner Parish's Eco Pastoral Project. Our aim is to raise money while developing community. Pick up your kit from the Parish office or if you have any queries please contact **Val Mooney on 9898 2602.**



Many thanks to all those who contributed (\$176) to the **August 1st Friday collection** for the Sacred Heart School in Sideia, PNG. Imelda, Ivan, Judy.

A vote on decriminalising abortion is likely to take place early next month. It is really important that we let our M.P.s know our views. Abortion causes considerable emotional damage to mothers, fathers and entire families. If it is "legalised", women who do not want their babies aborted will find it very difficult to withstand the pressure to abort. We should write to our local Lower House member and to the five Upper House members - names and addresses on the back of the bulletin. Next Sunday, we will have information and some sample letters available at the back of each church. A short letter giving your reasons is quite adequate.

CATECHETIC CLASSES

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

Young People

'FaithTrip' is a multimedia faith-based online network, a place where one can connect with faithful friends from around the globe. To join visit www.faithtrip.net

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our sincere thanks to the 5 Year 12 girls of Sion College who with their accompanist entertained us with a great musical presentation enjoyed & appreciated by our Autumn Friendship Club. Best of luck in their exams.

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.

PETITION AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria

The Issues:

- ✦ The Victorian Government has the dubious honour of providing the lowest level of funding per student attending Catholic schools of all Australian states. Currently funding is 15.1% of the total cost of educating a child in a Catholic school.
- ✦ Students with disabilities attending Victorian Catholic schools are currently discriminated against receiving only 1/3 of the funding that is allocated to similar students attending government schools.

The Solutions:

- ✦ Increase funding to 25% of the cost of providing education and index this to keep pace with the real cost increases.
- ✦ Remove the discrimination & provide equal funding for children with disabilities in Catholic schools & government schools.

POINTS TO PONDER

At Mass, when we collect and offer money, what does this mean for us? Once it was called 'sacrificial giving'. Is there any aspect of sacrifice about what we give? Do we give with our hearts or is this a token gesture?

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!

SCHOOL EVENTS CONGRATULATIONS!

A recent lap-a-thon at the school raised over \$3,300 for Catholic Missions and underprivileged children throughout the world. This outstanding fundraiser was in memory of Mick Kane, a teacher from the school who died last year. He would have been immensely proud of all the participants.

Dear God

Did Peter ever wonder where he left the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven?

Amen

Matthew 16:13-20

They've got to be around here somewhere...

My corner

Over the past couple of weeks most of us would have given some thought to medals. The Olympics is a time when we see athletes from all over the world decorated for their achievements in every conceivable sport. It's been interesting to watch and see those who just seem to have natural talents, those who have battled hardships to attain their goal, those who have been unable to achieve what they had hoped to for all sorts of reasons. I would rarely say I enjoy ads on TV, but I have taken some delight in the ad that has acknowledged the parents who have got up early, supported their children in every way, and either rejoiced or commiserated at the end as they watched successes and failures. They deserve a medal, without doubt!

Today's gospel sees Simon Peter acknowledged for his efforts in seeking to understand and come to know Jesus better. No gold medal for him, but the dubious honour of being made the rock on which the church was to be built. He knew failure, he knew doubt, he knew fear and uncertainty, but at long last he knew that Jesus was the Messiah, and he proclaimed his faith with great certainty.

This week, I pray that we all have the strength of faith to know who Jesus is, and to acknowledge what he can do in our lives.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

THE PEACE SYMBOL

One of the most widely known symbols in the world, in Britain it is recognised as standing for nuclear disarmament - and in particular as the logo of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). In the much of the rest of the world it is known more broadly as the peace or non-violence symbol.



What does it mean?

The symbol itself is a combination of the semaphore (flag) signals for the letters "N" and "D," standing for Nuclear Disarmament. These two signals imposed over each other form the shape of the peace symbol.

The graphic symbol was designed by Gerald Holtom, professional designer and a graduate of the London Royal College of Arts, in 1958. He had originally considered using the Christian cross symbol within a circle as the motif for the march, but various priests he had approached with the suggestion were not happy at the idea of using the cross on a protest march.

When has it been used?

The symbol was adopted in the US when a friend of Martin Luther King Jr. began using it during civil rights marches. The power of this symbol is emphasized by the fact that various far-right and fundamentalist American groups, during the 1970s, seriously considered forbidding it. In South Africa, under the apartheid regime, there was an official attempt to ban it. Also anti-Vietnam war protesters picked it up, and it was called 'the footprint of the great American chicken' by many American soldiers during the Vietnam War era.

Who can us the symbol?

The symbol has deliberately never been copyrighted. No one has to pay or to seek permission before they use it. As a symbol of freedom, it is free for all. This of course sometimes leads to its use, or misuse, in circumstances that CND and the peace movement find distasteful. It is also often exploited for commercial, advertising or generally fashion purposes.

St. Francis: "Peace and all Good"

That Francis was a peacemaker is obvious from the greeting God revealed to him, "the Lord give you peace." Francis urged the Friars that in their travels they not be "quarrelsome or take in disputes with words or criticize others; but they should be gentle, peaceful, and unassuming, courteous and humble, speaking respectfully to everyone, as is expected of them" (Later Rule, chapter 3). He was a true peacemaker because of his honesty, his belief that what you are before God, that you are and no more (Admonition XX). Francis sought from everyone true peace from heaven.

Make me a channel of your peace, It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, In giving to all men that we receive And in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Sarah Menassa, Promoter of JPIC, Franciscan Provincial Office

From Fr Ben I was getting into my car, and this chap says to me: "Can you give me a lift?" I said: "Sure, you look great, the world's your oyster. Go for it."

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-AUGUST 31

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm R Meyers, E Kimmel, M&A O'Connor, N Succar
7.30am F Neyland
9.30am M Blundy, C Chessari, C Chin, K DeLacy, F Fitzgerald, C Hangan, H Kirwan

5pm P McLaughlin
Ministers of the Word

6pm P Tierney, L Sanelli

7.30am

9.30am P Fitzgerald, M Robotham
5pm P Ruff, K Ooi

Welcomers

6pm B&M O'Shaughnessy
9.30am P&F Fitzgerald

Children's Liturgy

August 31—22nd Sunday OT—Group C
September 7—23rd Sunday OT—Group A

Altar Linen

August 24 Rhosheen Meyers
August 31 Helene Emery

Counters

August 24 T&E O'Brien
August 31 J Reid, M Rossely

Collectors 5pm

August 24 I Mahlstedt
August 31 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

August 24—L&D Mayne
August 31—Mrs A Massarotti, 2 Linsley St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

August 24 G Tabbachiera
August 31 D Amato

Lettori

August 24 A Dinardo, A Basile
August 31 J Adamo, C Ingresso

Ministri dell'Eucarista

August 24 D Amato, G Tabbachiera
August 31 R Bidinost, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—AUGUST 31

Ministers of the Word

8.30 M Clark, D Hayes
10.30 K McMahon, K McDonald

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am J Murphy, D Wolbers, P Wolbers
10.30am D Tan, P Ciccosto, T Shallvey

Piety Stall—August 31

8.30 A Lindsey 10.30 P Green

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.