



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23rd, 2009—Year B

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.

Psalms Response

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

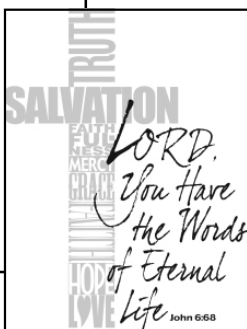
Communion Antiphon

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

This week

This week spend time reflecting on your journey so far.

What are you finding a challenge?



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.

Do you also want to leave?

What make us persevere in our journey of faith, volunteering, married life, work commitment, ministry? Why do some people stay on and others choose to leave?

Is it a mystery or a matter of choice? Today's gospel passage tells us about the choice some of the disciples made to continue to follow Jesus while others choose to leave and revert to their former ways of thinking, believing and seeing, because they were offended by what Jesus said. Even though they have seen enough of the signs Jesus performed, it wasn't convincing or good enough for them. Even Peter when the crucial moment came abandoned Jesus.

Faith is dynamic it never remains the same and we have to continue to make choices to follow Christ. When we are disillusioned by life, the words of others, decisions, actions of people, the hierarchy etc, the temptation is always to blame God for not acting in our defence or sorting things out for us. We can be offended or upset; it happens when people see things differently. Sometimes differences can be so big that reconciliation is impossible and we choose to go separate ways. The reality of life, no matter how painful it can be, has to happen at times so that we can live, like in the case of a divorce or the ending of a business partnership.

It is also important to give consideration to what others are thinking or saying. If we fail to do that we are missing out on living a fuller life, blinkered in ways and making choices from our own opinions, without taking the opportunity to look at things from a different angle. I guess that is why prayer is so important in our discerning process. Yet without consulting others we can be ruminating on our own perspectives. God comforts us but also challenges us to grow. At times we might not like what is being said, but choosing to follow will bring us new life. God's word is soothing when we are in pain and it can cut to bring forth truth and life.

'Lord who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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

Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Eph 5:21-32

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Jn 6:60-69

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

Monday—St Bartholomew

Apoc 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday

1 Thess 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday

1 Thess 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32

Thursday—St Monica

1 Thess 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51

Friday—St Augustine

1 Thess 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13

Saturday—Beheading of John the Baptist—

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

NEXT SUNDAY

22nd SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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:

9.30 am to 4.30 pm
Monday, Wed, Thurs, Friday
Parish Secretary— Monique Waring

St Clare's Parish Office Hours:

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

Veronika Bellis *Liz Clark*
Breta Cohen *Dianna Hardy*
Ann-Marie Diggins *Carmel Purdey*
Anthony Kennedy *Monique Waring*
Peter Leonard

Next meeting : 3 September

LITURGY 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
11.00am
(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 23 AUGUST		
MONDAY 24 AUGUST	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY IN THE NEW HALL ARE AT ST CLARE'S. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706 CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
	10.30AM	
	4.00PM	
TUESDAY 25 AUGUST	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 OR TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252 MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
	9AM-11AM	
	7.30PM	
THURSDAY 27 AUGUST	1.30PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—FILM/LUNCHEON—SEE BELOW BAPTISM PROGRAM
FRIDAY 28 AUGUST	7.30PM-9.00PM	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP IN SFX PHMR
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 30 AUGUST		22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Autumn Friendship Club has a film/ luncheon this week – Michael Caine stars in “Is Anyone There?” Book with Marg (9803 4793) \$16.00. Those who have booked should meet at 9.30 am, at the bus stop in Dorking Road. Next week, we plan to attend 11 am mass at St. Francis church in the city and have lunch afterwards.

(A READING FROM THE ASSISI COMPILATION)

When Francis washed his hands, he chose a place where the water would not be trampled underfoot after the washing. Whenever he had to walk over rocks, he would walk with fear and reverence our of love for him who is called “The Rock”. He also told the brother who cut the wood for the fire not to cut down the whole tree, but to cut it in such a way that one part remained while another was cut. In the garden, part of it was left to grow only wild flowers and the growing of fragrant plants and beautiful flowers were always a feature of his garden. When everything was in bloom, Francis was overtaken with ecstasy and, shortly before his death, he composed the *Praises of the Lord* by his creatures to move the hearts of his listeners to the praise of God, and that in his creatures the Lord might be praised by everyone.

Lord, let us make a space for nature in our lives. Let your natural light infuse that place where we dwell.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Building Education Revolution Update

The building project work on the administration block is due to recommence some time next week. Once the architect receives final mechanical drawings a permit should be issued within a few days.

Once the building permit is received we anticipate that there will be no more interruptions to the building projects. I will keep you updated on the progress of the projects through the newsletter. *Michael Edmonds*
BOOK WEEK : Next week is Book Week and the theme is “Book Safari”. We will be doing some special literature type activities to celebrate this. The children in Years 1 and 2 will be visiting the Box Hill Public Library to hear author/illustrator Jan Ormerod, speak.

THE LIFE OF FRANCIS

continued.....Francis and Nature cont. Inter-connections

It is important to see that Francis was much more than someone who liked nature

Premise Two:

Francis had no doubt that human beings were the pinnacle of all of God's creation. In this, he followed the understanding of the Bible, as expressed in the book of Genesis. Woman and man were created in God's image and likeness. They were especially to be loved and respected.

“All praise be yours, my Lord, through all that you have made, and first my lord Brother Sun”

Premise Three:

Francis cultivated a mystical and deeply personal relationship with the person of Jesus Christ. This relationship was so profound, that for the last three years of his life, he bore the marks of the Crucified Jesus in his own body, known as the stigmata. He was in fact the first person in Christian history to have received this extraordinary gift. Thus, when he related to his fellow human beings, it was through the eyes and heart of Jesus. When he embraced that leper on the road near Assisi, it was not only a hideous leper whom he kissed but also the very person of Jesus, incarnate in the leper. For Francis, Jesus was present in every human person, but particularly in the poor and outcasts.

These three premises allow us to understand just how deeply inter-connected all beings were under God as Creator and through Jesus, who was the incarnation of God's extraordinary love.

www.franciscans.org.au

RCIA

On Tuesday night we had our first RCIA meeting of this year and we were most pleased to welcome three new inquirers. We read through a passage from John (1.35-39) where Jesus invited his disciples to “COME and SEE” and this led to a very talkative discussion of what this meant to each of us. If anyone else would like to “COME and SEE” more about the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish office or join us on Tuesday nights in SFX parish house at 7.30pm.

~Lisa Norton

SOMETHING TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT THIS WEEK

What a struggle we have, to keep the reality of our aloneness at bay! We use background music, cell phones and ear-pieces like umbilical cords to distract us from the dread sense of isolation. The city is full of people talking into phones to keep some sense of communion. Most of our talk does not really breach our loneliness. Remember Pascal's comment, "The sole cause of man's unhappiness is that he does not know how to stay quietly in his room."

When Jesus had been with the crowds all day, talking to them, laying hands on the sick, he felt the urgent need to be alone and pray. On the hillside the Holy Spirit linked him to his Father. The same spirit dwells in us, as St Paul describes (Romans 8:26) "The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

<http://www.sacredspace.ie>



My corner

I am currently taking a course at YTU called "Faithful Grieving: Paths to new life through understanding loss and grief". It's come as a huge shock to me that what I thought might be a theoretical understanding of how grief works is embroiling me in an amazing riot of feelings and reactions. I haven't cried so much in years. One of my first tasks involved choosing a book to read, and reporting on my findings and my reactions to the story. The book I chose was "The Stolen Children: their stories". I thought I could just rush through the book, and give a report. This book includes actual extracts from the Report of the National Inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island children from their families. It is a book to break your heart. There was no 'rushing through' involved. Night after night, I found I could only read one story before tears engulfed me, and my heart broke once more for these kids who had been torn from their parents' arms and hearts, separated from tribes, shattered for life. The most alarming thing I read was that some of these stories started in Balwyn and Blackburn—families destroyed, hearts broken, lives ruined—and all in the name of keeping Australia 'white'. If any of you have a chance to read this book, please do. It reminds me that we have a generational guilt for what has happened to these people. That we must accept everyone as they are, and show compassion. That what we do to children impinges on their whole lives. That we are responsible to look around us and know what is going on—how others are treated. We have to be responsible for what our society is doing.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

People of Joy

Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York recently gave a talk on 'joy' in which he stressed that joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God within. He said that a person of God who is not joyful is an oxymoron who makes the Good News seem like a lie. He stressed that joy is a gift of God, a fruit of the Holy Spirit that flows from the conviction that God loves us, dwells within us when we're in the state of grace, sustains us with his providential care, and answers our prayers. He predicted that if Catholics were really joyful, people would be bursting through the doors to invade our churches. The world is longing for this joy that the world can't give - but often does not find it in us.

Parish Bulletin Bloopers

(claimed to be genuine!)

- 'The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.'
- 'The congregation is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.'
- 'The Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.'
- 'Ushers will eat latecomers.'

PETITION IN THE CHURCHES TODAY TO ASK HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT NOMINATION, BY MARY MACKILLOP EAST TIMOR MISSION, OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE AS A RECIPIENT OF THE COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, 27 SEPT

The Bishops' Statement, *And You Will Be My Witnesses: Young People and Justice*, will be launched in mid-September. Order forms and summary now available at <http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

United Nations Day of Peace

The UN's International Day of Peace is 21 Sept this year. The World Council of Churches has also asked Christians to observe the day, or the nearest Sunday (20 Sept), as an International Day of Prayer for Peace. There is more information and resources at <http://www.overcomingviolence.org> and <http://www.worldpeace.org>

NOTE TO PARISHIONERS

Bridie O'Leary, long time assistant to Geraldine at the St Vincent de Paul Shop in Hamilton St, Mont Albert has died. Parishioners are advised that her funeral will take place at Our Holy Redeemer Church, Mont Albert Rd, Surrey Hills at 11am next Tuesday 25th August.

POINTS TO PONDER

- ★ *Are there things that stop you believing in all that Jesus taught?*
- ★ *What do you find most challenging in the teaching of Jesus?*

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—AUGUST 30

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
6.00pm E Kimmet, E&A Fabian
8.00am J Reid
10.00am R Paul, M Hughes, G Augustin
5.00pm P MLaughlin

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm R Meyers, E Colafella
8.00am B Reid
10.00am M Edwards, J D'Souza
5.00pm J O'Brien, L Sanelli

Welcomers

6.00pm B&M Mahoney
10.00am L Lampard, G Augustin

Children's Liturgy

August 30—22nd Sunday OT—Group C
September 6—23rd Sunday OT—Group A

Altar Linen

August 23 E Vogel
August 30 O Rewega

Counters

August 23 R&Y Roy
August 30 P McGlin, P Madzarevic

Collectors 5pm

August 23 A Cutts
August 30 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

August 23—L&D Mayne
August 30—A Massarotti, 2 Linsley St

Morning Tea (after 10am Mass at SFX)

No Morning Tea until further notice

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

August 23 P Grech
August 30 G Amato

Lettori

August 23 J Adamo, C Ingrosso
August 30 G Tabacchiera, G Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

August 23 C Chessari, M Salamone
August 30 G Massarotti, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—AUGUST 30

Ministers of the Word

9.00am P Fitzgerald, M Clark, N Farry

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am T Shallvey, A McGovern, T Nicholson

Piety Stall—August 30

9.00am Glass family

TRANSPORT TO MASS REQUIRED

From Zetland Road—to 10am or 5pm. Please ring the Parish Office if you can help.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

One person to share villa unit in Box Hill North, furnished, non-smoker, students welcome. Please call Helen 9899 0151.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Young couple / overseas students are looking for budget accommodation. If you can help please call Vince Fazio on 9840 1248.

CARPENTRY APPRENTICESHIP WANTED

I have just finished my pre-apprentice ship, keen, reliable, live locally. Phone 9878 4512 or 0403 006 406 Aaron

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.