



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 31st, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord. You are good and forgiving, full of love for all who call to you.

Psalm Response

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

O Lord, how great is the depth of the kindness which you have shown to those who love you.

This week

What have been the crosses in your life?
Do you know other who are burdened by a cross at the moment?
Try to lift a burden from someone 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.

The way you think is not God's way but man's

Church life is very interesting, even though we have many good and talented people, they seldom put themselves forward for leadership. One of the reasons could be from a bad experience in the past or that they have been hurt.

Perhaps their awareness of community situations or conflicts, or the demands this knowledge places on them, is what makes people reluctant to come forward.

I know of a few people who opt out because of disappointments or others who are reluctant to come forward because of the consequences of working in a community environment. Fr Ben often says to me, "you never win". On the other hand, there are many who continue to minister and serve the community with a variety of experience both good and bad. I know how much I have grown and matured in my faith because of people. We simply cannot excuse ourselves from our commitment and call to serve God. We have to accept and acknowledge that there are always going to be differences of opinion and that there will be conflicts in any organisation. And we are privileged to have Jesus as an example. Even serving coffee and tea on Sunday mornings is a serious business, which involves the politics of sugar, biscuits and rosters, but we do it for the common good.

The first reading from Jeremiah, reminds me of the struggles that we go through when we are called by God to serve or to act upon an issue. For us Christians the gospel challenges us to think and act like God. Today we hear Jesus calling Peter "Satan", this is the same Peter whom Jesus praised in last Sunday's gospel passage. Peter was trying to protect Jesus and he knows it is not wise for Jesus to enter Jerusalem. The reluctance of Peter and the prophet Jeremiah don't come to us as a surprise because of our own struggles. Suffering is not the goal of Christian living, but it is the cost we have to pay to become a faithful disciple.

Without suffering, the cross and death, there is no resurrection. What is the cross you are called to bear?

Fr Anthony ofm

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK up
22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer 20: 7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

Rom 12: 1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Mt 16: 21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Monday

1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

1 Cor 2:10-16; Lk 4:31-37

Wed—St Gregory the Great

1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday

1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11

Friday

1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

1 Cor 4:6-15; Lk 6:1-5

NEXT SUNDAY

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezek 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

22nd SUNDAY

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 9.00 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 31 August	WORLD DAY FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
Monday 1 September	8.30am 10.15am 4.00pm
Monday 1 September	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. MASS FOR FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY IN ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL (PRAISE & WORSHIP AT 10AM) CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
Tuesday 2 September	12.45pm 7.30pm
Tuesday 2 September	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY AT SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
Wednesday 3 September	8.30am 9.00am 10.30am 12.30pm 12.30pm
Wednesday 3 September	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST). FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP IN SC PARISH HOUSE. ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE FOOD AT THE BARN
Thursday 4 September	10.00am 7.30pm 7.30pm
Thursday 4 September	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—VISIT TO ST FRANCIS CHURCH, MELBOURNE FOR MASS AT 11AM, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH AT VENUE OF CHOICE. MEET AT BOX HILL STATION AT 10AM. FIRST RECONCILIATION AT ST CLARE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Friday 5 September	11.00am 7.30pm-9pm
Friday 5 September	HOLY HOUR AT SFX BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 6 September	9.00am
Saturday 6 September	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**.



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. This 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.

FREEDOM TO BE BORN MARCH

There will be a peaceful pro-life protest march against the Bill on **Saturday 6th September at 10.30am (Treasury Gardens, Melbourne)**
Call 9387 7098 for more information.
Debate on the legislation begins on Tuesday 9th September. The 'Freedom to be Born March' will be a chance to stand up for unborn babies right before the parliamentary debate begins. We must heed the call of our bishops & publicly oppose this abortion Bill.

Please reflect on the refurbishment of the church using these simple principles before we gather as a community to reflect.

✦ *The Church Gathers-The body of Christ*

The environment for worship begins from outside, in the car park and the entrance. Everyone should feel welcomed; it should be a pleasant and safe experience. Even the pathways are a reminder of our pilgrimage towards God. The piazza and parish centre is to foster gatherings for the preparation for rituals; weddings, baptisms, funerals and the blessing of palms, fire and candles etc and celebrations for building community. There should be a flow between the place of worship and where the community gathers for social functions.

✦ *The Church Baptises*

The setting of the font and the Easter candle for baptisms of infants and adults, but also for funeral liturgies.

✦ *The Church Celebrates the Eucharist*

To encourage greater participation at Mass and an environment that helps to achieve this; lighting, furniture, ministry of music, audio/visual system, position of the altar and ambo etc

✦ *Chapels and Communion of Saints*

A reconciliation chapel for the celebration of the sacrament. Shrines/Chapels provide an opportunity and an invitation to parishioners and visitors to places for private devotional practice and common prayer.

Fr Anthoni ofm

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!

St Francis Xavier School News

The application for the new school building has now been approved and it is expected that the builder will be on site by September 15 to demolish the Terrapin Building. Plans are on display in the Resource Room.

School Concert will be held on Wednesday September 3.

TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

A Morning of Rosaries

Monday 8th September
Each ¼ hour from 9.00 am
until Mass at 12 midday.

Please add your name to the list on the clip-board at the back of the Church.

My corner

Some weeks I have great difficulty in deciding what to write about in this corner. I like to include some thoughts on the readings for the week if I can. This week, however, quite early, I knew I had to say something about the topic of the Olympic Games. As I drove to work on Monday, I was astounded to hear a commentator say that the Chinese government had spent US\$46 billion on the games. I will repeat that, a figure that keeps resounding in my brain—US\$46 BILLION! It may be saying something about my brain power, but I can in no way envisage 46 billion of anything. I can't imagine how much money that is. I am at a loss to comprehend what this could mean to the Chinese people. TV footage and various reports over the past months have indicated quite clearly that some parts of China are still experiencing extreme poverty, housing seems totally inadequate, roads disastrous, people struggle to survive. The huge contrast between affluent and technologically brilliant Beijing and peasant farmers eking out an existence using the most basic of farming implements poses question after question. Though we are assured London is not planning anything quite so spectacular, I wonder. And I wonder, what are we able to do about this? How can Christians (we) (I) show their disgust for this obscene indulgence when people starve and die because they have nothing?

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate



JUSTICE, PEACE & THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

REFUGEE and MIGRANT SUNDAY

(Source: www.ncca.org.au)

This year on Refugee Sunday Australian Churches will remember the needs of the people of Iraq, and those who have lost lives, limbs, family, friends, homes and livelihoods are remembered.

The NSW Ecumenical Council particularly draws attention to the plight of Assyrian Christians, giving thanks for the contribution being made by the Assyrian Church of the East, to support and raise the pressing issues facing their people. We also give special thanks at this time for the continuing work of our shared ecumenical project, the House of Welcome which offers such vital assistance to refugees from Iraq and elsewhere. Please remember Fr. Jim Carty and his team.

Prayer points please pray especially for:

- * Assyrian and other Iraqi Christians, Mandaean, and all Iraqi refugees
- * a greater response by the world community to the needs of Iraq's peoples
- * the House of Welcome's continuing ecumenical hospitality in Sydney to refugees from Iraq and elsewhere; and for all those working with refugees across the world
- * the Holy Spirit to transform violent hearts and minds into seeds and bearers of peace

Sarah Menassa, Promoter of JPIC, Franciscan Provincial Office

NOTES TO PARISHIONERS

A reminder that the Mass at St Clare's on Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays is at 9.00am.

The stone **Statue of Our Lady of Tarn**, presented by the pilgrims from Toulouse to the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and subsequently given to the Box Hill Parishes by Bishop Prowse, is currently on display in the foyer of the Parish Office. Fr Anthoni is considering a permanent home for it.

Pat Thomas, sacristan at 9.30 Mass for many years, is recovering from a recent fall, and taking a break from duties in the sacristy. We thank her for all she has done for the parish & pray for a full & speedy recovery.

FIRST COMMUNION

Parishioners are invited to bring a plate to share for morning tea after the 10.30am Mass at St Clare's on Sunday 7th September, when the children from the Catechetical class will receive the Eucharist for the first time.

Are you getting depressed about the current anti-life/anti family culture that seems to be spreading in our community? Come and hear what pro-life/pro- family people are doing to counter this! We meet on Wednesday, 3rd September, at 1.00 pm, at 4, Taladra Street North Box Hill. Tel. Majella 9890 3857.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-SEPTEMBER 7

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm M Chandler, E Colafella, J Wells, P&A Leonard
7.30am J Reid
9.30am M Slevison, V&G Mooney, M Soulsby, D Stephens, E&E VDW
5pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6pm M Rossely, E Colafella
7.30am C Gately
9.30am M Kirwan, K Kirwan
5pm R Paul, M Waring

Welcomers

6pm P Shepherd, M Rossely
9.30am E&E VDW, G Augustin

Children's Liturgy

September 7—23rd Sunday OT—Group A
September 14—Triumph of the Cross—Gp B

Altar Linen

August 31 Helene Emery
September 7 Carolle Pollocks

Counters

August 31 J Reid, M Rossely
September 7 B&M Walker

Collectors 5pm

August 31 P Aldag
September 7 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

August 31—Mrs A Massarotti, 2 Linsley St
September 7—S Massarotti, 1A Tyne St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

August 31 D Amato
September 7 R Bidinost

Lettori

August 31 J Adamo, C Ingresso
September 7 L Ferola, S Faulisi

Ministri dell'Eucarista

August 31 R Bidinost, M Casamento
September 7 C Chessari, M Salamone

ST CLARE'S—SEPTEMBER 7

Ministers of the Word

8.30 A McGovern, M Clark
10.30 M Hardy, K McMahon

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

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

Piety Stall—September 7

8.30 E Boyle 10.30 D Tan

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.