



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30th, 2009—Year B

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

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruit of his creation. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

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

This week

*Are you in need of a 'change of heart'?
What might you have to root out in order in order to live the life of a Christian more fully?*



You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

'Traditions are powerful things. Whether they deal with who hosts Christmas, or with something so simple as who sits where around the dinner table, traditions are part of our lives.

When they are positive, traditions give us a sense of identity, stability and value when our lives are filled with change.

'But traditions can be negative too; especially when they become detached from the values they were meant to support. Jesus challenged the Pharisees in their use of the laws regarding ritual purity. Jesus saw them using the traditions to unfairly judge others as being "in" or "out" of the circle of God's mercy and love, as if they, and not God, were the determiners of righteousness and religious worthiness!

'God's Word this Sunday challenges us to look at the power of traditions in our lives. If they are positive, then we should continue to make them part of our lives. But if they are negative behaviours or even attitudes--old grudges we just can't forget, old hurts we just can't forgive, old patterns of destructive choosing or thinking that we just can't seem to escape--then, with the grace of God already "planted within us," we need to do something new to change them.'
Excerpt from a commentary by Fr. Michael S. Murray, OSFS

'The occasion for the dispute between the Christ and the Pharisees was that our Lord's disciples did not wash before eating. Our Lord did not deny the importance of washing before eating, but indicated an area of greater concern. He invokes Isaiah: "This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me."

'The prophet was making the serious charge that the spirit of the Law had been lost. Christ is making the same charge. The external observances have taken precedence over the Law itself. Cleanliness is important and necessary, but it must be understood as it was intended when the Law was revealed by God to Moses.

'Christ then compares the difference between outward observance and inward disposition, and one can sense the intensity of his discourse, and his anger. What is outside and can go into a person is less harmful than what is within. Many evils lurk within the heart, anger, envy, malice, which are far more dangerous and destructive than what may come from without, and they cannot be combated with a mere external observance. They have to be recognised for what they are. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr. Robert Pollock OP

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you - keep the commands of the Lord.

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

Be doers of the word.

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

You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.

Monday

1 Thess 4:13-18; Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday

1 Thess 5:1-6, 9-11; Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday

Col 1:1-8; Lk 4:38-44

Thursday-St Gregory the Great

Col 1:9-14; Lk 5:1-11

Friday

Col 1:15-20; Lk 5:33-39

Saturday

Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

NEXT SUNDAY

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 35:4-7

James 2:1-5

Mk 7:31-37

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
10.00am
(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 30 AUGUST		22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MONDAY 31 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 1 SEPTEMBER	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 OR TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252 SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HOUSE MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS AT ST CLARE'S
	9AM-11AM	
	10.30AM 7.30PM 7.30PM	
THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER	10.00AM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—MEET AT BOX HILL—SEE BELOW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	11.00AM 7.30PM-9.00PM	HOLY HOUR AT SFX BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP IN SFX PHMR
SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER	12.30PM	COLLECTION FOR PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION BAPTISMS AT SFX

THE AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week, the Autumn Friendship Club plans to attend 11 am mass, at St. Francis Church, in the city. We will meet at Box Hill Station at 10.00 am and take the train to the city. Ring Marg (9803 4973) if you plan to come. The following week, we will have a demonstration and sampling of various products, from "Word of Mouth". We need to have an idea of numbers for this.

FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY

Fr Anthoni will celebrate Mass in the **NEW HALL AREA** of St Clare's School (enter from Killara St) on Monday 7th September at 10.30am. Commencing with Praise & Worship at 10.15am. Refreshments to follow. This will be our first Mass in the new venue & we invite parishioners to join us.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Building Project Update The architect received a building permit on Thursday. The builders will be back in site on Monday. We anticipate continuity for the building project from now on.

POINTS TO PONDER

✦ *What 'human regulations' in today's world do you find it difficult to conform to? Why?*

BABYSITTERS NEEDED

Four young mothers have joined the RCIA program on Tuesdays nights. We urgently require a team of babysitters from 7.15pm—9.15pm Tuesday nights so that they can attend the program. Please consider if you could help & ring Liz at the Parish Office on 9890 2231.

THE LIFE OF FRANCIS

continued.....Francis and Nature cont. St Francis - a Greenie?

It would be too easy to make Francis the medieval man into a modern day Greenie. Some have tried to do this. The "hat" does not fit. Too often some relate to Francis as a type of Dr Dolittle who can perform all sorts of tricks with nature; others have relegated him to the birdbath! This is not the Francis of history.

Francis did not have a sense of the ecological "crisis" as we have; that goes without saying! Nor would he approve that attitude that seeks to "save the planet" so that there is something left for our children and grandchildren. That would have been an human-centred approach for Francis. It leaves God totally out of the picture. Terms like "environmental sustainability"/ "eco-systems"/ "extinction of the species" would mean little to Francis.
www.franciscans.org.au

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.

SOMETHING TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT THIS WEEK Those who lived with Jesus in Nazareth thought that they knew him. He fixed their tables and chairs. They recognised him as the carpenter, Mary's son (Mark 6:3). They ate and drank with his extended family. When he opened Isaiah in the synagogue, and interpreted it with authority, he was stepping outside the role they had fixed for him. So they put him down as just a workman. Francois Mauriac marvelled at this: 'It is baffling to record that, for a period of thirty years, the Son of God did not appear to be anything other than a man.' Jesus is a prophet in his own country, undervalued, talked down. Am I guilty of this sort of undervaluing?

Lord, there are depths in each of us, even those we think we know well, that only you can glimpse. A put-down tells more about the speaker than about the victim. Save me, Lord, from such folly. The fact that I know someone's family and history can blind me to the depths and dreams that make them precious to others.

<http://www.sacredspace.ie>

LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

It's easier to clean the pots & pans than to clean one's heart! It's also easy to dismiss this gospel because our tradition has never emphasized this kind of ritual impurity. Yet, the gospel hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday; after all, this is what most of us grew up doing. Or perhaps we cling to rote prayers that we learned as a child rather than stretch our relationship with God to find new prayer expressions. Perhaps we relegate

My corner

Last weekend I took part in a retreat with some friends of mine who are Pastoral

Associates in other parishes. This is the fourth time we have 'retreated' together, and I look forward to their company as well as to sharing insights on a wide range of topics that present themselves during our time away. This time we based our discussions on a set of CD's by Lawrence Freeman, director of the World Community for Christian Meditation. He had much to tell us about living in the moment, taking time out, enjoying each day. I found much that was helpful throughout our deliberations, and came home refreshed and determined to make better efforts spiritually. At the moment, Muslims around the world are observing Ramadan, a time when they abstain from eating and drinking and spend the hours thus saved in worship, prayer, contemplating, helping others, doing charitable works and reciting the Qur'an. I regret that Lent is when we do these things, as it's a time when I am usually flat out with RCIA, liturgy, preparations for Easter etc, and often find that my spiritual life has not improved greatly during the holy season. I'd like a large chunk of time, right now, to sit quietly and think about my relationship with God. As we progress further down the path of ecumenism, it might be good for all of us to adopt Ramadan and use it as an opportunity for spiritual as well as physical purification.

fiz Clark, Pastoral Associate

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ✦ **Sunday October 4th** St Francis of Assisi Feast Day Celebrating 800 years of Franciscans. Combined Mass at SFX at 10.30am followed by a sausage sizzle.
- ✦ **Friday October 9th** Fr Anthoni celebrates his 10th Anniversary of ordination
- ✦ **Friday October 16th** Fr Ben's 80th Birthday celebrations 7.30pm. – watch for details.

Caritas Australia, at the inspiration of Oscar Romero is calling Australians to *aspire not to have more but to BE MORE*.

The Be More Challenge is aimed at tackling global poverty and injustice by 'doing' justice. We live in a world where living justly and fairly means we have to think, feel and act.

How we live in Australia and other industrialised countries affects people and the environment in other parts of the world. Our high consumption lifestyles mean that we are using more than our fair share of the world's resources and contributing to problems such as climate change. The poor in places like Bangladesh, low-lying Pacific islands and sub-Saharan Africa are already suffering the worst impacts of climate change, even though they contributed little to creating it. Future generations will also pay an unacceptable price if people in industrialised countries don't find ways to live more sustainably.

The Be More Weekend is an opportunity to challenge ourselves and our communities to look at 4 ways to simplify our lifestyles focusing on Food, Water, Energy and Consumerism, and thus help create a more just and sustainable society. For more info visit www.bemore.org.au/weekend

Time for a Smile?

- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- Always try to be modest and be proud of it!
- Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques.
- Borrow money from a pessimist, they don't expect it back!

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>

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—SEPTEMBER 6

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
6.00pm D Williamsz, P&R Cussen
8.00am C Chin
10.00am F Fitzgerald, C Hangan, M Sinclair
5.00pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm L Norton, M Rossely
8.00am J Manshon
10.00am P Fitzgerald, A M Diggins
5.00pm M Waring, K Ooi

Welcomers

6.00pm B&M O'Shaughnessy
10.00am P&F Fitzgerald

Children's Liturgy

September 6—23rd Sunday OT—Group A
October 11—28th Sunday OT—Group B

Altar Linen

August 30 O Rewega
September 6 P Turner

Counters

August 30 P McGlin, P Madzarevic
September 6 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

Collectors 5pm

August 30 L Soulsby
September 6 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

August 30—A Massarotti, 2 Linsley St
September 6—S Massarotti, 1A Tyne St

Morning Tea (after 10am Mass at SFX)

No Morning Tea until further notice

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

August 30 G Amato
September 6 G Tabacchiera

Lettori

August 30 G Tabacchiera, G Amato
September 6 A Lanza, L Ferola

Ministri dell'Eucarista

August 30 G Massarotti, D Amato
September 6 G Tabacchiera, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S—SEPTEMBER 6

Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McDonald, D Hayes, M Farry

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am J Murphy, I D'Amato, H Keown

Piety Stall—September 6

9.00am Farry family

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

CLEANING

Reliable honest lady to do house & office cleaning, available Monday to Saturday. Excellent references supplied. Contact: Frances 9894 7893.

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.