



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

I am the Saviour of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry, and I will always be their Lord.

Psalm Response

The Lord upholds my life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

You have laid down your precepts to be faithfully kept. May my footsteps be firm in keeping your commands.

**PLEASE NOTE: FRS ANTHONI,
BEN & BOB WILL BE AWAY ON
RETREAT FROM MONDAY 28th
SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 2nd
OCTOBER**

This week

*Try to empty yourself this week of
the desire to be in control. Look
for ways of being of service to
others. Perhaps spend time with &
learn from a child. What can we learn
of faith from their example?*

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.

*'If anyone wants to be first,
he must make himself last of
all and servant of all.'*

It is interesting how sometimes we think some people are better than others because of what they do. I don't expect any preferential treatment as a priest but now and then when someone discovers what I do, I get a little bit of special treatment. I get looked after, that is until the Provincial or Bishop arrives! We are a hierarchical church, and this is manifest in the way we welcome and serve others.

In today's gospel passage we hear how in the Kingdom humility and service rate more highly than the status of someone. This is quite radical, because in the world that we live in, it is those who are ambitious and industrious who are considered successful, if we are to measure success in terms of power, money, status or possession. It is sad to say but ambitious men and women, even within the religious and political world, use power, money, status, qualifications, and connections to get what they want, sometimes even to the extent of using harassment and bullying. As Australians we can take pride that this is not part of our culture and is not as bad and widespread as in other countries.

It is good to be aware of what we look for in others and in ourselves. What are the sorts of people that we like to hang around with and why? What are some of the values that your family celebrates as Christians? What we believe is going to form who we are and how we live out our faith. Our attitudes, our approach to life, and to others indicate our priorities in life.

Hopefully as Christians our priority would be values like integrity, justice, honesty, service, respect; values that celebrate a person, rather than what he or she does. We will try to affirm and encourage people to work to bring harmony, justice and peace, rather than give in to people who intimidate others to serve self interest.

And we will endeavour to treat and welcome everyone as our brother or sister, especially the poor ones of God including the migrants and refugees!

Fr Anthoni ofm

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www.scsfx.org.au

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis 2:12, 17-20

*Let us condemn him to a most
shameful death.*

James 3:16 - 4:3

*Justice is the harvest of
peacemakers from seeds sown in
a spirit of peace.*

Mk 9:30-37

*The Son of Man will be delivered
into the hands of humanity ... All
who wish to be first must make
themselves the servants of all.*

Monday—St Matthew

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday—St Padre Pio

Ezra 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Haggai 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9

Friday

Haggai 1:15-2:9; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Zech 2:5-9, 14-15; Lk 9:43-45

NEXT SUNDAY

26th SUNDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME

Num 11:25-29; James 5:1-6;

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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 : 1 October

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 20 SEPTEMBER 12.30PM	SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE APOSTLESHIP TO THE SEA 4 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME.
TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 12.45PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX NO RCIA
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPT 8.30AM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 12.00PM	
FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 7.30PM-9.00PM	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP IN SFX PHMR
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER	SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

URGENTLY NEEDED!

We are in need of a Hindi speaking person to assist with translation. Please call the Parish Office if you are able to help.


With a growing number of parishioners who are now unable to attend Mass due to illness and aging issues, we have an **urgent need** for more people to be involved in **MINISTRY TO THE SICK**. Please give some prayer and some thought to your suitability and availability for this task—your services may only be required once a month, or perhaps once a fortnight. If you are able to help please phone Fr Anthoni or Liz—full training will be provided.

FRANCIS & CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY will meet in St Clare's Church for the 1st two weeks of next term (Monday 5th & 12th), during the Deakin University exam period.

Saturday, October 10, is the anniversary of the passing of the infamous Bill, decriminalising abortion in Victoria. All the pro-life groups, who worked so hard to try to defeat this bill, are planning a **MARCH FOR THE BABIES WHO NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY**. This will begin at 10.45am at the Treasury Gardens, Spring Street and end at 1.00 pm. Please join us, to show the politicians and the community, that there are still large numbers of people who believe that abortion is bad for our community, causing a great many problems and solving none.

Advance Notice Re: Anniversary of the Abortion Law Reform Bill

The Parishes of the Archdiocese of Melbourne will be asked to join with His Grace, Archbishop Denis J. Hart in marking the Anniversary of the Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008 on **Sunday 25th October 2009**. Archbishop Hart will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's at 11.00am followed by a Prayer Service at 12.30pm in the Cathedral. All Melbourne parishes are asked to join His Grace in praying for an end to abortion. How can you make a difference? Hear Australia's most inspiring speakers at 2.00pm at the Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne. For further information, please contact Marcia Riordan from the Respect Life Office: email mrriordan@jp2institute.org



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY
– Celebrating 800 Years
On Sunday October 4th the Parish will be celebrating this special event with Mass at 10.30am at St Francis Xavier's. Following the Mass the Social Committee will be providing a simple sausage sizzle. Due to the building works being carried out, we are unable to provide any drinks but please feel free to bring your own refreshments.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ✦ **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.

RCIA

We had a very interesting meeting on Tuesday at RCIA. We all contributed to a discussion on where we see God in our lives today and about relationships/friendships that were special and significant to us. Faye gave us an insight into her unique journey of faith that left a lot of us in awe. We ask that you keep our RCIA inquirers and team members in your prayers. ~Lisa Norton

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 www.overcomingviolence.org & www.worldpeace.org

"If I had been around when Rubens was painting, I would have been revered as a fabulous model. Kate Moss? Well, she would have been the paintbrush." - Dawn French.

THE LIFE OF FRANCIS

continued.....Francis and Nature cont.

THE SOLUTION OF FRANCIS

Because of his person and his lifestyle, so firmly fixed on the Gospel of Jesus, literally thousands came to follow him, from every walk of life and from every part of Christendom of that time.

So, is it not surprising that today, the message of Francis of Assisi, speaks not only to Catholics and Christians, but often to people of every major world religion.

At the core of Francis' "spirituality," was not some "pseudo-new-age" style of "unitarianism", but his firm belief in the Oneness of God: that only in and through God is the whole of creation united and connected and that in Jesus Christ, all are equal in the sight of God. For Francis, Jesus was his "brother, his friend and companion." So was every human person. St Francis was not an environmentalist in our sense of the word but, he was a mystic who was deeply in communion with his own environment. His influence endures to this day and his followers, Franciscans of every walk of life, are often involved in environmental action.

www.franciscans.org.au

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, 27 SEPT

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

Box Hill Uniting Churches Adult Fellowship invitation to Box Hill Hospital Chaplaincy Fund Afternoon - Monday 28th Sept at 1pm. Fellowship Hall, Wesley Uniting Church, Oxford St, Box Hill. "Story of the First Fleet". Donation \$6. RSVP: 25/09/09 Ruth Dickie 9890 7528.

My corner

On Wednesday morning when I was coming to work, there was a hold up on the corner of

Whitehorse Road and Station Street. I sat there impatiently, wondering what was going on. When I was finally able to move forward, I was greatly distressed to see a man lying in the middle of the road, obviously having been hit by a car. I imagined the terrible shock it must have been for him. It has been on my mind ever since. On Monday, I minded my granddaughter. During the course of the morning I turned on the pump for our water tank. It's not very noisy, but she thought it was, and she began to back away from me down the backyard, with a look of terror on her face. When I picked her up, she kept saying "home, home", obviously longing for the security of Mum or Dad. Both these incidents talk to me about our vulnerability—whether we are young or old. In many ways, it's a big bad world out there, and we seek encouragement and assurance about so many things. That's why today's gospel is so hope-filled—Jesus takes a little child and puts his arm around him.

When we come to Jesus in prayer, in thought, we also have that opportunity for Jesus to hold us, to listen to us, to reassure us. Joan Chittister in her book *Illuminated Life* suggests that it is in daily coming to God in prayer and contemplation that we find peace and can cope with life as it is. I hope in the coming months to bring some gems from this book to your attention. I've found it very helpful, and you may too

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

WHAT DOES RCIA MEAN TO YOU?

1. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults?

2. A Repetitive Call to be Ignored and Avoided?

3. Reclining Comfortably In your Armchair?

4. Real Christians Involved and Active?

We hope #1 and #4 get your vote.

This year we have 4 young women inquiring about our faith.

As baptized Catholics, YOU are called to witness to the Gospel. For RCIA, this witness means active support and prayer, a spirit of welcome and hospitality, genuine concern and interest in the growing faith of inquirers.

Are you able to offer your assistance as a sponsor, prayer support person, welcomer, speaker at meetings?

Do you have knowledge about your faith you would like to share with others?

Could you talk about your faith journey at a meeting one night?

Could you bake a cake to be shared for supper?

Could you baby sit on occasional nights?

Can you pray for our parish and the success of this process?

Please let us know at the Parish Office—9890 2231.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—SEPTEMBER 27 Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm J&S Arcuri, J Morison
8.00am J Reid
10.00am M Sinclair, R Paul, M Blundy
5.00pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Dodds, S Hengeveld
8.00am B Reid
10.00am M Edwards, H Miller
5.00pm L Sanelli, K Ooi

Welcomers

6.00pm B&M Mahoney
10.00am V&B Burns

Children's Liturgy

October 11—28th Sunday OT—Group B

Altar Linen

September 20 M Rossely
September 27 L Chin

Counters

September 20 L&B Cohen
September 27 **R&Y Roy**

Collectors 5pm

September 20 L Soulsby
September 27 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

Sept 20-La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
Sept 27—M Curmi, 19 William St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

September 20 R Bidinost
September 27 J Adamo

Lettori

September 20 N Pozzobon, A Lanza
September 27 R Bidinost, C Gibillini

Ministri dell'Eucarista

September 20 M Casamento, R Bidinost
September 27 G Massarotti, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—SEPTEMBER 27

Ministers of the Word

9.00am T Nicholson, K McMahon, C Abiad
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am D Tan, A McGovern, T Shallvey

Piety Stall—September 27

9.00am P Green

ANY JOB REQUIRED

Reliable, honest, hardworking lady to do any kind of job including house & office cleaning. Was a Chemistry teacher before moving to Australia. Contact: Esther 0414 803 524.

ANY JOB REQUIRED

Reliable, honest, hardworking student to do any kind of job including house & office cleaning. Was a statistical & financial analyst before moving to Australia. Contact: Toni 0420 635 563.

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.

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.