



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 28th, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

O Lord, you had just cause to judge men as you did: because we sinned against you and disobeyed your will. But now show us your greatness of heart, and treat us with your unbounded kindness.

Psalm Response

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

O Lord, remember the words you spoke to me, your servant, which made me live in hope and consoled me when I was downcast.

This week

Each night this week, reflect on your day.

What were the 'no' moments?
What were the 'yes' moments?
What 'no' of today might you make into a 'yes' of tomorrow?

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Sunday Statement 2008 is available at www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/

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.

Social Justice Sunday

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, I present the 2008 Social Justice Sunday Statement, *A Rich Young Nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia*.

This year's Statement considers the affluence of our nation against the circumstances of those who experience great hardship. In a land of plenty there are many who are wealthy, but live in spiritual poverty, and there are those who have missed out on the benefits of economic growth.

No matter how well the economy performs, the health of our society can be judged by the treatment of its most vulnerable citizens.

Following years of prosperity, Australia has the means to act for the common good and with a special concern for the poor. We are challenged to really consider what sort of society we want now and for the future.

Pope Benedict XVI said in his address at Admiralty House during World Youth Day:

With many thousands of young people visiting Australia at this time, it is appropriate to reflect upon the kind of world we are handing on to future generations. In the words of your national anthem, this land 'abounds in nature's gifts, of beauty rich and rare'.

How we use the world's resources and foster human development are concerns for every Australian. What values characterise our daily lives? Have we become obsessed with economic success and material acquisition? Do we recognise those in need and our obligation to do something about it?

For Christians, the Word of God constantly reminds us of our obligation to the poor. Each time we gather at Eucharist we give thanks for the saving presence of Christ who died for all. As the Holy Spirit transforms the gifts of bread and wine into the Lord's body and blood, so we are renewed in our commitment to be Christ's witnesses to the world.

The Holy Father has affirmed the importance of our shared commitment to the poor when he said of the Church:

... love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word. (Deus Caritas Est, n.22)

This Social Justice Sunday, we are all challenged to consider how we can be the Good News to the poor.

*Christopher A. Saunders, DD, Bishop of Broome
Chairman, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council*

Parish of St Francis Xavier

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www.scsfx.org.au

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www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au

Parish of St Clare

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North Box Hill, 3129
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Newsletter also available at:
www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezek 18:25-28
The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

Phil 2:1-11
In your minds you must be the same as Jesus Christ.

Mt 21:28-32
He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Monday—Archangels
Dan 7:9-10,13-14; Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday—St Jerome
Job3:1-3,11-17,20-23; Lk9:51-56

Wednesday—St Teresa
Job 9:1-12, 14-16; Lk 9:56-62

Thursday—Guardian Angels
Ex 23:20-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday
Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5; Lk 10:13-16

Saturday—St Francis of Assisi
Job42:1-3,5-6,12-17; Lk10:17-24

NEXT SUNDAY

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Is 5: 1-7; Phil 4: 6-9;
Mt 21: 33-43**

Friars of the Parishes

Fr Anthony 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 : October 9

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 28 September	10.45am	SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA MEETING RE PLANS FOR SFX CHURCH IN SFX HALL
Monday 29 September	8.30am	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME.
Tuesday 30 September	12.45pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX
ST JEROME	7.30pm	RCIA ENQUIRY—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
Wednesday 1 October	8.30am	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP IN RECESS FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ST CLARE'S SENIORS IN RECESS FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS
	7.30pm	
Thursday 2 October		AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—IN RECESS FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
GUARDIAN ANGELS		
Friday 3 October	11.00am	HOLY HOUR AT SFX
	7.30pm-9pm	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 4 October	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE— ALL WELCOME! SEE BELOW ↓↓↓

EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISER ECO PASTORAL PROJECT FRIENDSHIP/ FOOD/ FUN

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE GATHERED A GROUP OF FRIENDS & TO THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED SO GENEROUSLY TO OUR EAST TIMOR PROJECT. SO FAR WE HAVE RAISED \$2,727.00 FROM 7 FUNCTIONS & THERE ARE MORE TO FOLLOW. OUR YEARLY GOAL IS \$6,000 WITH ALL MONEY GOING DIRECTLY TO THE PROJECT.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN INVOLVED, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER HOSTING A GROUP TO SHARE A MEAL & RAISE SOME MONEY?

PICK UP YOUR KIT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT **VAL MOONEY ON 9898 2602.**

ABORTION: Pastoral Letter and Day of Intercession

Archbishop Hart's most recent Pastoral Letter has attracted a fair amount of media attention. It provides a good summary about the abortion debate in general and possible implications on Catholic hospitals and medical professionals.

The Archbishop reminds us about the victims of abortion saying, "The Church does not condemn women who have had abortions and encourages them to find hope, forgiveness and healing in the mercy of God. Together with their children, they are the principal victims of this new culture of death."

He continues to urge us to make our concerns known to members of the Legislative Council (Upper House), and to do so respectfully and from a position of reason.

Copies are available at the back of the Church and online: <http://www.cam.org.au/abortion/pastoral-letter-and-day-of-intercession.html>.

The Archbishop has also declared Sunday **October 5th** as a **Day of Intercession** throughout the Archdiocese dedicated to the defeat of the Bill. We are urged to join in an hour of prayer at **St Patrick's Cathedral at 12:15pm.**

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Saturday 4th October

PARISH WALKING GROUP FUNDRAISER FOR THE EAST TIMOR ECO PASTORAL PROJECT

Parishioners are invited to join the Walking Group at 9.00am at the SFX Parish House.

The one-hour walk will be followed by a Para-liturgy with the Friars at 10.15am to celebrate the Feast of their Patron Saint.

Morning tea will follow.

If you don't wish to walk, do come along by 10.15am to join in the Feast Day celebrations - and raise funds

Please bring a plate to share.

Are you a young adult turned off by a greedy and materialistic society? The **Secular Franciscan Order** can offer you a spirituality that respects both the individual person and the created environment.

Are you an older, working person, raising a family, concerned with issues of justice and fair conditions, and contemplating the ultimate purpose of life's journey? In the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare we can search together for that peace and joy that comes from letting go of worldly priorities and focusing instead on the presence of God in our lives. **Are you** retired? Secular Franciscans can offer you a regular monthly meeting with brothers and sisters in Christ who will respect, support, and value you, and help to sustain you in your journey to God.

Hear more about the Secular Franciscan Order at the 9.30a.m. Mass on 12th October.

POINTS TO PONDER

At Mass, when we encounter strangers, do we remember what it's like to be a stranger? Do we give a token "hello" and turn back to the comfort of the people we know? Do we make an effort to help them feel part of this community?



FABULOUS FOOD & FRIENDS NIGHT!

Come and join your fellow Parishioners for an evening of sensational food and fantastic company

Enjoy a lavish buffet meal at the beautiful Box Hill Golf Club

Get together a table of old friends or put together a table with new friends!

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 10TH
7.00 PM**

BOX HILL GOLF CLUB

No loud music, no dancing!

Just good food & good friends!

Tickets \$40 per head (drinks not included)

Book your table now at the Parish Office

FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC COMMUNITY

Will be holding a seminar entitled: **'NEW LIFE IN GOD'S SPIRIT'**

Commencing Monday 13th October

More information to follow

Enquiries: Olive 9878 4103,

Therese 9878 3706

From Fr Ben Two bats were hanging upside down (as they do) on the branch of a tree. Bat 1: Do you know what I fear most about growing old? Bat 2: No, what? Bat 1: Incontinence.

My corner I'm feeling bewildered and confused. I've heard non-stop comment on the TV and radio this week about the American financial crisis, its causes and effects. To me, it speaks volumes about greed and materialism, and shows the financial gurus in the worst possible light. And where it leaves the ordinary, trying-to-survive person is still a challenging question. Then I read the Bishops' Social Justice Statement issued for this Sunday - "*A rich young nation: The challenge of affluence and poverty in Australia*". This is a valuable document, clearly and succinctly comparing the affluence of so many of us with the extreme hardship under which others live. It gave me much food for thought about how much I have, how much I need, how much I share, how much I could do without. I found a few quotes that seemed pertinent:

A rich person is not one who has the most, but one who needs the least Or - Money can buy everything but happiness. And then- The greatest good you can do for another is not to share your riches with him, but to reveal his riches to himself.

I am wondering about the seeming injustice of those who have everything and those who have almost nothing. And I remember the quote that assures me that those who have much will be expected to give much.

What do I intend to do about it all?

How do I justify having so much? What am I going to do towards changing the have/have not situation?

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate



JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION *Social Justice Sunday*

The challenge that Jesus presented to the rich young man in the Gospel of Mark [10:17-22] is the same we face in Australia today. Will we use our great wealth for the benefit of all & particularly for those who have been denied the benefits of prosperity? Will we act on the challenge Jesus offers, or will we too go away shocked at the challenge before us?

From the life of Francis... His embrace of the leper, the marginalized person within society, was the identified moment of conversion for Francis [Test]. His identification with the lepers was more than pity or a social protest. The leper helped Francis to understand his place in life, his place before God. He saw himself to be a poor man, like every person to be born naked and to die naked.

Francis' love for the poor did not mean that he despised the rich. Indeed, Francis cautioned his friars not to look down on those "wearing soft or gaudy clothes and enjoying luxuries in food or drink" [RegB c.2]. All members of the brotherhood were equal, no matter what their social or economic background; no one was to cling to office within the brotherhood [LP 83].

Thus Francis can be a model for us today. He was able to "liberate" the poor in that he gave them a renewed sense of their dignity and worth as human beings. His choice of the poor as the privileged place to meet the crucified, and poor Jesus Christ, along with his understanding of how poverty helps us to clear our minds and hearts to better receive both God and one another, stand as inspiration to all. Today there is new urgency for Franciscans to reconsider the issue of poverty or to make a "preferential option for the poor". We are challenged to renew the Spirit of Francis and are called to embrace those who are poor.

www.ofm-jpic.org/handbook/index.html

THE TRANSITUS OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI will be celebrated at St Paschal's College Chapel, 90 Albion Rd, Box Hill on Friday 3rd October at 7.00pm. All welcome!

MICAH CHALLENGE & THE UN MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, AND WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

Speaker Rev Joel Edwards

Incoming Director of Micah Challenge International

Micah Challenge International is the international campaign by churches to mobilise public support to lift millions out of hunger and acute poverty.

Venue: Study Centre of Yarra Theological Union, 98 Albion Rd, Box Hill (also accessible via 34 Bedford St)

Date: Thursday 16 October 2008

Time: 3.00pm - 4.30pm

Donation appreciated to help offset the cost

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-OCTOBER 5

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm D Williamsz, A&E Fabian, M&A O'Connor,
7.30am S Carney
9.30am E Kimmet, E&E VDW,
P&R Cussen, G Augustin, W Tan
5pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6pm M Jeffares, M Williamsz
7.30am C Gately
9.30am M Hughes, M Robotham
5pm K Ooi, L Sanelli

Welcomers

6pm J Morison, B&M Mahoney
9.30am E&E VDW

Children's Liturgy

October 12—28th Sunday in OT—Group C
October 19—29th Sunday OT—Group A

Altar Linen

September 28 Elizabeth O'Brien
October 5 Ursula Clifford

Counters

September 28 H Kerwin, M O'Connor
October 5 M Rossely, J Butler

Collectors 5pm

September 28 P Aldag
October 5 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

September 28—M Curmi, 19 William St
October 5&12—J&P Crummy, 15 William St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

September 28 G Amato
October 5 G Tabbachiera

Lettori

September 28 A Dinardo, A D'Alessandro
October 5 M Salamone, D Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

September 28 D Amato, M Casamento
October 5 R Bidinost, G Tabbachiera

ST CLARE'S—OCTOBER 5

Ministers of the Word

8.30 A McGovern, J Sakowski
10.30 K McDonald, K McMahan

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am J Murphy, F Fitzgerald, I D'Amato
10.30am P O'Brien, T Shallvey, P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—October 5

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.