



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 19th, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

I call upon you, God, for you will answer me; bend your ear and hear my prayer. Guard me as the pupil of your eye; hide me in the shade of your wings.

Psalm Response

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

See how the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those who hope in his love, that he may rescue them from death and feed them in time of famine.

This week

As you watch the news, try to judge the various reports & breaking stories according to the gospel. What would Jesus' response have been?
Is that the response of our political, economic or civic leaders?
What is your response?

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.

God and politics

Separation of religion and state is a contentious issue in many countries. During his recent visit to France Pope Benedict called for a renewed relationship between state and church. The 1789 French Revolution separated church and state which is known as *laïcité*. With the arrival of humanist reason it became the guiding principle in contemporary culture replacing French Catholicism, which dates back to 2nd Century.

In many parts of the world especially in Christian countries there is a strong reaction to Church and in some ways the secular culture that despises the church's power is actually now oppressing and curbing religious freedom. There are people who are suspicious of politicians who call for a renewal, because of the historical significance. These politicians are thought to be reacting to a strong Muslim faith, identity and community.

Today's readings are interesting because they are inviting us to think about politics and religion a little bit more. In our contemporary world, religion and God are used in politics, and in many cases in unhealthy situations, with wrong intentions.

As Christians we have a moral responsibility to our world and how it functions.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah praises King Cyrus and reminds Israel how the Lord is one God of all and that the Lord can use even a pagan king to bring salvation to Israel. Even though King Cyrus did not realise that God's hand was at work, Israel should recognise God's kindness and providence. In contrast we hear how the Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus. Either by silencing him or getting rid of him, so they came with a brilliant question, the question of tax. If Jesus says "yes" he is with the Romans and if he says "no" he is opposing Roman occupation.

Jesus' answer challenges us to live fully in the tension of the two kingdoms. The real problem is when we live as if only this present world counts! When we focus on power and privilege instead of God, when we look for the scapegoat, we self destruct. ...*apart from me all is nothing, Is 45:6*

Fr Anthony ofm

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 45:1, 4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

1 Thess 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope and love.

Mt 22: 15-21

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

Monday

Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday

Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday

Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday

Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53

Friday

Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday

Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9

NEXT SUNDAY 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thess 1:5-10;
Mt 22: 34-40**

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 : November 6

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 19 October	12.30pm 2.00pm	WORLD MISSION SUNDAY MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 5 BAPTISMS AT SFX WEDDING AT SFX
Monday 20 October	8.30am 10.00am	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY @ ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL (ENQUIRIES: OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706)
Tuesday 21 October	12.45pm 7.30pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
Wednesday 22 October	8.30am 9.00am 12.30pm	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL. (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE
Thursday 23 October	10.30am	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—REFLECTION DAY—SEE BELOW
Friday 24 October	7.30pm-9pm	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 25 October	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE—ALL WELCOME!
SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER	9.30AM 5.00PM	GRADE 2 FAMILY MASS MASS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE EXAM PERIOD ALL WELCOME!

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

THURSDAY 23RD OCTOBER—10.30AM-2.30PM

REFLECTION DAY—IN ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH HOUSE, WITH LIZ CLARK, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE. TAKE TIME OUT WITH PRAYER, REFLECTION & NOON MASS. BYO LUNCH.

EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISER ECO PASTORAL PROJECT FRIENDSHIP/ FOOD/ FUN

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.**

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER
at 5pm

MASS FOR ALL STUDENTS ABOUT TO COMMENCE EXAMS. ALL WELCOME!

FOLLOWED BY PIZZA. (\$5 per head) PLEASE RSVP TO PARISH OFFICE FOR CATERING PURPOSES IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND.



POINTS TO PONDER

At Mass, when we genuflect before we get into our seats, is it merely symbolic—something we've always done, or does it mean more—mean something about honour to God, reverence, remembrance of who we are and where we are?

JUSTICE, PEACE AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Two months from now we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This event invites us to a renewed commitment to disarmament, development and peace. All States are called upon to promote disarmament and non-proliferation as key elements for an international order in which the fundamental rights and freedoms of every person can be fully realized.

Peace and security are threatened by terrorism, and even more by widespread violence, neglect of human rights and underdevelopment. As the human person is the ultimate aim of all public policies, arms regulation, disarmament and non-proliferation must have an interdisciplinary or, more importantly, a human approach. Without considering the social, economical, psychological and ethical impact of armaments, policies on disarmament and non-proliferation become a game of armed truce between States.

Statement by H.E. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See

63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly First Committee:

"General and complete disarmament" New York, 7 October 2008

From Fr Ben

WIFE (looking in the mirror): I can see, dear, that I may be getting fat. Say something nice to me.

HUSBAND: Well dear, we can both thank God that we have very good eyesight.

RCIA**RITE OF CHRISTIAN
INITIATION OF ADULTS**

This week our inquirers discussed the Mass—the things they know already, the things we do, the things that puzzle them. They join us at Mass each week and have a growing understanding and appreciation of what is going on. In a few weeks they will be ready for the Rite of Acceptance, and will join us as catechumens. Please pray for them as they travel this journey of discovery, of finding their place in the life of the Church. We are all together on this pilgrimage. We need to support and encourage one another on the way.

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE FROM
ETHIOPIA NOW AVAILABLE FROM
SFX PARISH HOUSE**

Sidamo is a very smooth pleasant strong coffee. Harar is a very strong coffee, and the original mocha style, and blends superbly with Sidamo.

Fairtrade coffee is Certified Organic and Fairtrade Sidamo. Fairtrade guarantees a just return to the grower, as the grower group exports directly to overseas buyers. An additional Fairtrade Premium levy provides extra funds for socially important programs to the grower cooperatives. Fairtrade is an important way forward to assist with re-aligning trade to bring a just return for poor coffee farmers. The coffee is a mild roast.

**Fairtrade Sidamo or Harar:
250 gram ground \$7 ea**

My corner

This week I have been thinking a lot about the jobs people have and how they are paid for them. These thoughts are in light of the ongoing discussions about the amounts of money being paid to top executives of the big companies. It puzzles me that more or less those who manage money/markets/utilities etc are paid exorbitant amounts, those who care for our safety like soldiers, police, etc receive a middling amount, many medical staff who care for our bodies are not well paid, those who care for our young peoples' minds are in the lower-mid bracket, those who care for the hearts of our elderly rank low on the list, those who care for our souls receive so little (this is not a personal complaint).

I guess we are taxed accordingly, so that we 'render to Caesar' in proportion to what we receive. When I then look at the gifts we are all given and the ways we expend them in promoting the Kingdom of God, I also have a few questions. Is there a fairness in distribution. Why do some do so much, others so little? How do we 'render to God' with the things God has given us? Is what I do enough, or should I do more? I wish Jesus was here to explain it all a bit better.

*Liz Clark,
Pastoral Associate*

**World Mission Month 2008
One World, One Family,
One Mission of Love**

One thing we all long for is to belong in some way or another to a family. Families may take many different forms, but the essential ingredient for creating family is love.

Pope Benedict XVI tells us in his Mission Sunday message that mission is a question of love, or in other words, mission means creating family.

We shouldn't limit who are members of our family. God's dream for us is to all be one family with one loving Father, even a world family. Mission is an expression of God's love for us, and our love for others. The God of love is the source of care, tenderness, compassion, hospitality and interest in other people's problems, in order to create one world family.

Awareness of just how inter-connected and interdependent our lives are is growing. We are one planet, one world, one globe.

World Youth Day this year highlighted the diversity yet oneness, love and harmony of the world family.

World Mission Day challenges us to take this message to the 80 per cent of world youth who, due to poverty, war, conflict and AIDS did not even know about World Youth Day and are waiting to be liberated from so much suffering. In this globalised world decisions we make and everything we do has either positive effects or wreaks devastating destruction on our fellow citizens of earth.

Jesus' farewell wish and command to his disciples was that we all be one, and that we love each other as a family. "I pray also for those who will believe in me ... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you" (Jn 17:20,21) and "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (Jn 13:34,35).

With immediate access to information about the situation our world-wide sisters and brothers, and with increasing awareness of the global consequences of our lifestyle and choices, we are called to act to create a global family where all people can live life in all its fullness as Jesus wanted.

This year for World Mission Month as a focus study we are looking at Thailand, a country of 63 million people, the majority of whom are Buddhists, with less than 1% Catholics. We learn how Christians there are caring for young children, creating homes and building families, often under very challenging circumstances. We also challenge ourselves to commit to building a better future for the world family, on a mission of love.

ROSTERS**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-OCTOBER 26****Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

6pm S&J Arcuri, M&A O'Connor,
J Wells,
7.30am S Carney
9.30am E Kimmet, K Kirwan,
V&G Mooney, M Soulsby,
D Stephens

5pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6pm E Colafella, M Jeffares
7.30am B Reid
9.30am GRADE 2
5pm E Umashankar, K Ooi

Welcomers

6pm P Shepherd, J Arcuri
9.30am W&L Norton, P Turner

Children's Liturgy

November 9—Lateran Basilica—Group B
November 16—33rd Sunday OT—Group C

Altar Linen

October 19 Wendy Tan
October 26 Els Vogel

Counters

October 19 P McLaughlin, G Kitch
October 26 T&E O'Brien

Collectors 5pm

October 19 I Mahlstedt
October 26 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

October 19—P Tierney, 1/105 Albion Rd
October 26—P&M Poropat, 10 William St

ITALIAN MASS**Commentator**

October 19 R Bidinost
October 26 J Adamo

Lettori

October 19 N Pozzobon, J Amato
October 26 A Basile, L Ferola

Ministri dell'Eucarista

October 19 D Amato, G Massarotti
October 26 R Bidinost, C Chessari

ST CLARE'S—OCTOBER 26**Ministers of the Word**

8.30 T Nicholson, A McGovern
10.30 M Hardy, D Hardy

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am E Lim, D Wolbers, P Wolbers
10.30am D Tan, T Shallvey, H Keown

Piety Stall—October 26

8.30 A Lindsey 10.30 P Green

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.