

St Francis Xavier and St Clare

2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Year B ~ 4 December 2011

From the prophet Isaiah

Isa 40:1-5.9-11

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God.
‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.
Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low,
let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’
Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.
The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him.
He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms,
holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes. The word of the Lord.

Psalm (All) Ps 84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.
I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.
Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.
The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

From the second letter of St Peter

2Pet 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (All)

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

From the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mk 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: *Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,* and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’ The Gospel of the Lord.

Gathering O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Acclamation When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which come to you from God.

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

1087 Whitehorse Road
 Box Hill 3128
 Telephone 9890 2231
 Facsimile 9898 4392
 email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au
www.scsfx.org.au

SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL 9890 1108
www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au

PARISH OF ST CLARE

138 Woodhouse Grove
 North Box Hill, 3129
 Telephone 9898 5080
 email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

FRIARS OF THE PARISHES**PARISH PRIEST**

FR PETER McGRATH OFM

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

FR BOB MATTHEWS OFM

FR PETER TRAN OFM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

SR MOIRA BRODERICK CSB

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

LITURGY TIMES

(FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2011 UNTIL
 COMPLETION OF REFURBISHMENT OF SFX
 CHURCH)

St Clare's

Sunday 9.30 am

Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 am

Confessions: Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday

(Italian) 11.30 am

5.00 pm

Mon—Fri

Confessions: Sat 12 noon

4.00—5.00 pm

MARRIAGES

Bookings can be made with SFX Parish Office for each Parish, and celebrated in the church requested. This is to avoid double bookings.

BAPTISMS

(FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2011 UNTIL
 COMPLETION OF REFURBISHMENT OF SFX
 CHURCH)

Anyone wishing to have a child baptised should give four to six weeks notice, so that parents can attend a preparation course.

St Clare's—1st & 3rd Sundays only,
 11.00 am

PARISH CENSUS

In order to prepare for our Parish Stewardship Campaign in the early part of 2012, we are gathering an update of our Census. On the weekend of December 10/11 we will be asking for **everyone** to renew or give us your current information including email address. You may think you have been a "long time" parishioner at either SFX or St Clare's and so do not need to fill in the cards, BUT we still need you to give us your details on the census cards at this Census Weekend – December 10/11/.

Thank you in anticipation.
Fr Peter McGrath OFM

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2012**PARISH GROUP—Looking Ahead!**

Children at State Schools or Youth at Catholic or State High Schools from Grade 6 through to Year 12 or Adults who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 29th April 2012 in SGX Church, are requested to note our Parish Preparation Program dates – Mondays 20th, 27th February, 5th March, Tuesday 13th March (due to Labour Day Monday Holiday), Mondays 19th, 26th March / 16th, 23rd April. Program sessions are at SFX Parish House from 7pm – 8pm.

Any enquiries please contact Parish Office or Sr Moira 9890 2231. PLEASE NOTE: Due to this being a short preparation of 8 weeks and Easter holidays during that time, we will not be registering students after 27th February 2012 for the Confirmation Sacrament of 2012.

ADVENT FABRICS

We have replaced our four Advent Candles in the Friars Room with the four Advent colours of fabric. The liturgy team have given us this creative replacement as lighted candles are not permitted.

LITURGY TEAM MEETING—THIS COMING WEEK!

On Wednesday 7th December in the SFX Parish Meeting Room at 7.30pm, the liturgy team is requested to gather and plan to assist with a number of areas for our liturgies in December/January/February 2012.

DONATIONS FOR OUR SACRED ARTICLES

In these past weeks the donations to help with the costs of refurbishing our sacred articles for the church have been most encouraging and greatly appreciated. Funds received to date stand at \$3830. Thank you.

RCIA - ENQUIRY TIME 2011 CONCLUDES

As we approach the end of the year, we will welcome Lisa and Greg as we pray with them in their journey of faith and friendship with the community. We will resume our RCIA Tuesday evening meetings in January 2012. (Dates: TBA)

LITURGY SPOT SPECIAL!**Feast of St Francis Xavier**

In terms of a life-span in our time 46 years is short indeed, but St Francis Xavier seems to have packed at least three life-times into his short forty-six years.

This weekend, the 3rd of December 2011, marks some 559 years since the death of our patron Saint Francis Xavier. The years seems to drop away, as the zeal and quest for God, that this great missionary man offered to his world, is still as relevant as ever though the Society of Jesus – Jesuit – communities widely spread in our own time as missionary men of God.

We ask our great patron Saint Francis Xavier to bless us all on this day. May he guide us and continue through our own zeal and quest to be the way of the Gospel here in the Box Hill community spreading joy, peace & the love of the Lord.

[see attached sheet on St Francis Xavier]

Sr Moira, Liturgy Coordinator**GIFTS OF CONCERN - ST VINCENT DE PAUL****Gifts for our Christmas Giving 2011**

This year, due to the storage of items under the Giving Tree being unavailable as our Friars Room temporary church space is limited; gifts for St Vincent de Paul hampers can be offered by "A Card Voucher" – Coles/Myer – Woolies – Maxi or other stores of your choice. The value of these will be your donation towards assisting those in need at Christmas. We replace "Gifts under the Tree" with "Vouchers in the Box!"



A box on the stand near the tree at the front of the sanctuary area in the Friars Room is the "vouchers box" in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued generosity for the needy in our own local area.

St Vincent de Paul Team**CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

We are preparing for our Christmas Eve 9pm Carols – 9.30pm Mass and Christmas Day 9am Carols – 9.30am Mass, both to be at St Clare's. For Choir Practice for either/or both! of these Masses we would welcome some more "voices!" as we need to cover both Masses and could divide up if a good number of voices are available. Choir Practices – Tuesdays 13th & 20th December at 7.30pm in St Clare's Church.

CHRISTMAS DAY ITALIAN MASS

Mass in Italian will be celebrated on Christmas Day at 9.45am in the Friars Room at SFX.



SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER		
MONDAY 5 DECEMBER	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
	10.30AM	FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP AT SC
TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER	12.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (As MONDAY)
	12.30PM	FOOD AT THE BARN
THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER	12.00PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB - MASS & LUNCH AT RSL
FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER	9AM-11AM	PLAYGROUP AT SFX (CLASSROOM NEXT TO FRIARS ROOM)
	7.30PM	BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX CHURCH
SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER	12.15PM	SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week: Midday Mass, followed by lunch at 1pm at the Box Hill RSL. Anyone needing a lift, meet outside the church after Mass. All parishioners, members of the Whitehorse Community and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.

LAST CHANCE ! BOOKINGS CLOSE TOMORROW! SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH SUNDAY DECEMBER 11 @ 12.15PM AT SFX

Bookings-contact the Parish offices
9890 2231. \$20pp.



THE HOME ROSARY WITH THE FATIMA STATUE—2012

Please contact Margaret Soulsby on 9890 4267 to see how you may arrange a suitable time for the statue to come to your home in 2012.

You are invited to drop toiletries, toilet paper, cleaning & laundry products to the Parish House to be taken to the Brigidine Sisters for their
ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE PROGRAMS.

Archbishop Philip Wilson, President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has written to announce the forthcoming **Year of Grace - Starting Afresh from Christ.** "We invite you to join us in the journey of prayer". A limited number of copies are available in the churches or visit
www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au

We pray for those recently deceased: those whose anniversaries occur at this time: and the sick of our Parish: Elizabeth Dwyer, Bodie Windsor, Bev Poynton, Peg Walker, Meaghan McEvoy.

FRANCISCAN CALENDARS

These are available for purchase from SFX Parish Office & St Clare's Piety Stall for \$6 each and make a great **Christmas Gift.** This year the calendar celebrates the 800 years since Clare left her family & joined Francis & his brothers in the Portiuncula, the little church of St Mary of the Angels, & made her commitment to Christ.

Dear Friends,

As we begin the season of Advent I would like to draw your attention to the Caritas Advent Calendar. You may find it a useful resource.

<http://www.caritas.org.au/advent/index.html>

Also I wish to thank you for your ongoing support of the East Africa Crisis Appeal. Updates on the situation in East Africa can be found on the Caritas website www.caritas.org.au

Once again thank you for your support and solidarity in responding to the needs of the people of East Africa.

*Regards, Margaret Fyfe csb, Diocesan Director & Programs Coordinator, Latin American Region
Caritas Australia*

FOR YOUR DIARY!

Please note—Lunar New Year Celebration for the Parish will be on Saturday January 28th 2012, with Mass at 6pm (normal weekend time) at ST CLARE'S CHURCH (no Mass at SFX that night), followed by a celebratory meal in St Clare's Hall. Details to follow.



FAITH GUIDES

A New Way of Seeing by Fr Geoff Plant—now available in the churches.

In the upcoming new year of the liturgical cycle we will read from Mark's Gospel. The first edition of the Faith Guides for the new year, entitled A new way of seeing provides a concise, easy-to-read introduction to the Gospel of Mark. Author Geoffrey Plant uses his gift as a storyteller to provide new insights & make the gospel story come alive in a new way. A new way of seeing offers an excellent overview of the gospel for the year & is a wonderful way to stimulate interest & discussion at the start of the new liturgical year.

PRAYER CHAIR



The need for regular prayer, both private and liturgical, in our day to day lives was a major emphasis of Pope Benedict's words at WYD08. To carry this forward, you might like to take home one of the yellow sheets at the back of the church, choose a favourite chair at home as your prayer-chair and place the sheet within easy reach of it. Slide into it from time to time during the coming week, take up this sheet and aided by the reflections think over again the words of the Gospel this week.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—December 11

Ministers of Communion

6.00pm J Wells, J Hickey,
L Lampard
5.00pm H Dyjak

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm L Norton, L Soulsby
5.00pm T Parker, H Miller

Welcomers

6.00pm J Hickey

Altar Linen

December 4 MT Francisco
December 11 R Meyers

SFX COUNTERS AT ST CLARE'S

December 4 T&E O'Brien
December 11 R&Y Roy

Rosary Statue

Dec 4—M&S Hengeveld, 25 Heathfield Rise
Dec 11—M Scarfe, 12 Clota Ave

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

December 4 J Adamo
December 11 P Grech

Lettori

December 4 A D'Alessandro, L Ferola
December 11 M Salamone, D Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

December 4 G Massarotti, R Bidinost
December 11 D Amato, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—December 11

Ministers of the Word

M Hardy, C Leung, M Robotham

Ministers of Communion

D Hardy, P O'Brien, Sr Moira, A McGovern,
A Leonard, N Succar, M Ferdinando

Welcomers—December 11

P Cleary, P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—December 11

D Tan

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Pat Cleary Peter Leonard
Breta Cohen John O'Brien
Ann-Marie Diggins Annie Setiawan
Jane D'Souza Dianna Hardy
Maurice Ferdinando Carmel Purdey
Anthony Kennedy Monique Waring
Sr Moira Broderick (ex-officio)

Next meeting : 9 February 2012

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION

**Wednesday 14th December
at 7.30pm at St Clare's
Church**

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 & organisations at St Francis Xavier's & St Clare's.

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.