



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time January 18th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

May all the earth give you worship and
praise, and break into song to your
name, O God, Most High.

Psalm Response

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We have found the
Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us
truth and grace. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord has prepared a feast for me:
given wine in plenty for me to drink.



This week

The response to this week's psalm is
a wonderful prayer of discipleship.

Say it often this week.

*Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

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.

Ordinary Time

'Nowadays we seem to be
dissatisfied if we are considered
ordinary. We seek to be the first or
the best, or at least to belong to
the group that is first or best. Yet
most of us are really quite ordinary
people living ordinary lives. Despite
this, there need be nothing
ordinary about being ordinary.

'With this Sunday we enter the
interlude between seasons. This is
Ordinary Time: we reflect on the
very ordinary ways that God enters
our lives, thus making them
extraordinary.

'It takes only a little effort to
attune our ears to hear the voice of
God, to adjust our sight to
recognize Christ in our midst. As
members of Christ, we have the
Holy Spirit dwelling within us. This
same Spirit urges us to reach out to
others. What we accomplish may
not be as impressive as what was
accomplished by Samuel, or the
first disciples of Jesus, or Paul.

Results are up to God.

All we have to be concerned about
is that we recognize the call of God
in the ordinary events of life and
that we respond:

"Here I am. You called me."

*Excerpts from a commentary by Sr Dianne
Bergant, Professor of Biblical Studies at
Catholic Theological Union, Chicago.*

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This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

2nd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

1 Sam 3:3-10, 19

*Speak, O Lord, your servant is
listening.*

1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

*Your bodies are members of the
body of Christ.*

Jn 1:35-42

*They saw where Jesus lived and
they stayed with him.*

Monday

Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday

Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday—St Agnes

Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday

Heb 7:25—8:6; Mk 3:7-12

Friday—Ss Timothy & Titus

2 Tim 1:1-8; Lk 10:1-9

Saturday—St Francis de Sales

Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Mk 3:20-21

NEXT SUNDAY

3rd SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1 Cor 7:29-31

Mk 1:14-20

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*
Anthony Kennedy *Monique Waring*
Peter Leonard
Trish Nicholson (Chair)

Next meeting : 5 February 2009

Liturgy Times—

PLEASE NOTE NEW 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

A MOST AUSPICIOUS OCCASION

Monday January 26th

**AUSTRALIA DAY &
LUNAR NEW YEAR**

at
**ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH,
BOX HILL**



HOLY MASS at 12 Noon in the Church
BAR-B-Q & LUNCHEON in the Hall after Mass



Meat provided
Raffles
Entertainment
Bar Open
If possible, please bring

- salad
- sweet item

**R.C.I.A. resumes Tuesday 20th
January in the Parish House Meeting
Room at 7.30pm**

From Fr Ben

An astronomer once suggested that all religions could be reduced to "Do unto others as you would have them do to you". The theologian Karl Barth responded that perhaps all astronomy could be reduced to "Twinkle, twinkle, little star". Specialisation in one area should lead us not to believe that we know so much, but in fact we know so little.

My corner

I was very sorry that I ran out of time and space to share with you something I read before Christmas. It's worth waiting for, I think. It began with the story of G K Chesterton, as a child, being perplexed that when he hung out an empty stocking on Christmas eve it would be filled with all sorts of goodies when he woke up. He was amazed that he always got gifts, whether he had been good or bad, and he came to see that this was the meaning of unconditional love. He didn't have to earn this love, or work for it, someone simply gave him good things because they loved him. The book continues to quote Chesterton: "Once I thought it delightful and astonishing to find a present so big that it only went halfway into the stocking. Now I am delighted and astonished every morning to find a present so big that it takes two stockings to hold it, and then leaves a great deal outside; it is the large and preposterous present of myself." The story continues: "This is why socks on Christmas are the perfect gift.... This God of ours slipped into stocking feet to walk among us as a human being.... God came to earth in the person of Jesus to walk for miles and millenniums in our shoes and socks and sandals or even bare feet. We did nothing to deserve or earn this great gift. We did nothing to merit God's attention and affection. But out of the greatness of God's generous heart, God decided to come among us as a human being and to show us how to live as a gift to one another. When we place our feet into our socks or stockings, we reflect God's greatest gift". I offer this as something to think about as we remove our shoes and socks and opt for summer bare feet. I'd love to share the rest, but there's no room. See me if you would like to hear more. (Ref: *Stations of the Crib: A Journey of Hope from Advent to Epiphany, Joseph Nassal*)

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

**DURING THE DECEMBER/JANUARY BREAK,
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION &
MINISTERS OF THE WORD ARE REQUESTED TO
VOLUNTEER AT MASSES AS REQUIRED**

Altar Linen

January 18 F Neyland
January 25 R Meyers

Counters

January 18 R&Y Roy
January 25 P McGlin, P Madzarevic

Collectors 5pm

January 18 P Aldag
January 25 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

Month of January—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

January 18 G Tabacchiera
January 25 D Amato

Lettori

January 18 A Dinardo, A Basile
January 25 J Adamo, C Ingrosso

Ministri dell'Eucarista

January 18 D Amato, G Tabacchiera
January 25 R Bidinost, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—JANUARY 25

Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McMahon, P Fitzgerald, L Hardy

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am J Murphy, P O'Brien, P Wolbers
D Tan, D Hardy, T Shallvey

Piety Stall—January 25

9.00am Farry family

**PARISH WALKING GROUP
EACH SATURDAY MORNING -
MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE
AT 8.30AM.**

**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.**