



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

**2nd Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2010—Year C**

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Like newborn children you should
thirst for milk, on which your spirit can
grow to strength, alleluia.

Psalm Response

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me,
Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me,
but still believe! Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Jesus spoke to Thomas: Put your
hand here, and see the place of the
nails. Doubt no longer, but believe,
alleluia.

This week

*Look for ways in
which a simple
gesture of touch
can convey
friendship,
compassion or
support this
week.*



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.

"My Lord and my God!"

'The proverbial scene of the doubting
Thomas that occurred eight days after
Easter is very well known. At first he did
not believe that Jesus had appeared in
his absence and said: "Unless I see in
his hands the print of the nails, and
place my finger in the mark of the nails,
and place my hand in his side, I will not
believe" (Jn 20: 25).

'Basically, from these words emerges
the conviction that Jesus can now be
recognized by his wounds rather than
by his face. Thomas holds that the
signs that confirm Jesus' identity are
now above all his wounds, in which he
reveals to us how much he loved us. In
this the Apostle is not mistaken.

'As we know, Jesus reappeared among
his disciples eight days later and this
time Thomas was present. Jesus
summons him: "Put your finger here,
and see my hands; and put out your
hand, and place it in my side; do not be
faithless, but believing" (Jn 20: 27).

'Thomas reacts with the most splendid
profession of faith in the whole of the
New Testament: "My Lord and my
God!" (Jn 20: 28). St Augustine
comments on this: Thomas "saw and
touched the man, and acknowledged
the God whom he neither saw nor
touched; but by the means of what he
saw and touched, he now put far away
from him every doubt, and believed the
other" (*In ev. Jo.* 121, 5).

*Excerpt from a commentary by
Pope Benedict XVI, Sept 2006*

Full text can be found at:
[http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/
benedict_xvi/audiences/2006/
documents/hf_ben-
xvi_aud_20060927_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2006/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20060927_en.html)

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

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

**READINGS FOR
THIS WEEK**

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 5:12-16
*The numbers of men and women
who came to believe in the Lord
increased steadily.*
Apoc 1:9-13, 17-19
*I was dead and now I am to live
for ever and ever.*
John 20: 19-31
*After eight days Jesus came in
and stood among them.*
Monday
Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday
Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15
Wednesday
Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
Thursday
Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
Friday
Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
Saturday
Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21

NEXT SUNDAY
3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER
Acts 5:27-32, 40-41
Apoc 5:11-14
Jn 21:1-19

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*
Pat Cleary *Dianna Hardy*
Breta Cohen *Carmel Purdey*
Ann-Marie Diggins *Monique Waring*
Jane D'Souza *(ex-officio)*

Anthony Kennedy
Peter Leonard

Next meeting : 6 May 2010

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 11 APRIL	12.30PM	MORNING TEA AFTER 9AM MASS AT ST CLARE'S 2 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 12 APRIL	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
SCHOOL TERM 2 COMMENCES	10.30AM	FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY IN ST CLARE'S HALL (OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706)
	7.00PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS—SFXPHMR
TUESDAY 13 APRIL	12.45PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)
	7.30PM	RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)
	7.30PM	YEAR 6 PARENT/CHILD FAMILY NIGHT AT SFX—CONFIRMATION
	7.30PM	MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX PHMR
THURSDAY 15 APRIL	1.15PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—BINGO AT ST CLARE'S
FRIDAY 16 APRIL	7.30-9.00PM	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP (SFX PHMR)
SATURDAY 17 APRIL	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP. MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
	2.00PM	WEDDING AT SFX
SUNDAY 18 APRIL	9.00AM	COMMITMENT MASS AT ST CLARE'S FOR CATECHETIC CLASSES
	10.00AM	YEAR 6 FAMILY MASS (PRESENTATION FOR CONFIRMATION)
	12.30PM	BAPTISM AT SFX

The **AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will start Term 2 with BINGO, at 1.15 pm at St Clare's. The following week, we are planning a picnic, at Ruffey Park Lake. BYO food and drink. We will meet at SFX at 11.30. Advance notice – our next film, on May 27, will be "The Blind Side". All parishioners and their friends are welcome to attend our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.

Thankyou to all who contributed to the **FIRST FRIDAY COLLECTION** for the Sacred Heart School in Sideia, PNG. (February - \$196.00; March - \$163.00) This money helps children from outlying islands to attend boarding school; otherwise, they would get no schooling.

The **LIFE WALK, 2010**, will finish in Melbourne on Sunday, April 11. If you would like to join the walkers for the final lap, you could meet them at 8 am at the corner of Princes Highway and Warrigal Road (Melway 69 F5, UBD 31 6D8). The walkers will go along Princes Highway, Monash Road, Queen's Avenue, Normanby Road Princes Highway, Chapel Street, Church Street, Victoria Street, Wellington Street (11.45 am), finishing at St John's Hall, Clifton Hill (Melway 44 C1; UBD 253 Q3) about 12.15.

On Sunday, April 16, there will be collection boxes in our churches - please consider making a donation, as the WALK is Right to Life's main source of funds to finance its work in Pregnancy Counselling and Community Education. Since the passing of the "Decriminalisation of Abortion" Bill, allowing abortion right up to the time of normal birth, the importance of this work has increased hugely. If you would like to sponsor a walker, ring Judy - 9878 4212.

We have a petition in the churches calling for the repeal of the "Abortion Law Reform Bill of 2008". Please consider signing it – it is extremely important to keep this matter before our politicians, especially as there will be an election later this year.

CATECHETIC CLASSES

Recommence Monday 19th April at 4pm at St Clare's. **COMMITMENT MASS—SUNDAY 18TH APRIL—9AM AT ST CLARE'S**

ROSARY STATUE—NOTE CORRECTED DATE

The Rosary Statue will be in SFX Church for the week beginning this Sunday 11th April. The Rosary will be recited before the Midday Mass each day for parishioners now resident in nursing homes.

Pray 2010: A Place for Everyone

Whether you struggle with how to pray, desire to understand the Eucharist more, want to learn about a new form of prayer or go deeper with a prayer style with which you are familiar, then Pray 2010 offers a wide range of prayer workshops and presentations to meet your needs. For the full program go to:

www.pray2010.org.au

MELBOURNE'S PLANS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

While it may still seem as if it is a long way off, the next international World Youth Day will be held in **Madrid, Spain from 16–21 August 2011**. Basic information about the pilgrimage to help you think about how you and other young people in your community might engage with this worldwide Catholic event are available at:

www.ayo.org.au/wyd08-anniversary



entertainment books™

SFX Parents & Friends are once again offering the popular Entertainment™ Books. The Entertainment™ Book is a restaurant and activity guide that provides special 25 to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers from many of the best restaurants, hotels and attractions throughout Australia & New Zealand. Books are \$65 each, with \$13 from every book going to the school. Phone Clare on 0448 468 259 or buxtonrayandclaire@bigpond.com

A NEW SERIES: 'MARY MACKILLOP – AN AUSTRALIAN LIKE US'

Born in Melbourne on January 15, 1842, of Scottish migrant parents, Mary was the eldest of eight children. Her mother, Flora (McDonald), a strong and courageous woman, had amazing trust in God's Providence. Her 'schoolmaster' father, Alexander, was unsuccessful in business. In 1873, Mary wrote: 'My life as a child was one of sorrow, my home when I had it a most unhappy one... When I was a little more than sixteen years of age, the principal care of a large family fell upon me, and ... I felt its burden yearly more and more.'

Provided by the Sisters of St Joseph - www.sosj.org.au. For further information, see www.marymackillop.org.au and www.cathnews.com.au

ANZAC DAY MASS—Catholic War Veterans' Association. St Bede's Parish, 1 Severn St, North Balwyn. Sunday 25 April at 7.30am.

Thank you!

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion. If you still have a box or set of envelopes, please bring them back next week. If you are wondering how you could make a difference in the struggle against poverty in your daily life then visit www.bemore.org.au and take up the challenge to BE More!

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School Office is open from 8.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday during school term. Tours of the School are held on the following dates. The tours are for approximately 1 hour. Please meet at the school office by 9.10am for Monday tours and 10.50am for Sunday tour. Mondays @ 9.15am—19 April, 3 May, 24 May, 19 July, 9 August, 6 September, 11 October and Sunday 11am on 2 May

My corner

I look at my gorgeous new grandson, Joel, now 3 1/2 weeks old, and wonder what it must be like to be new born, to be removed from the safety and shelter of the womb, to hear sounds, to see light, to meet two sisters—one of whom is tender and gentle, the other who wants to look and poke and prod, and get a bit of reaction from this tiny new squalling thing. What is it like to be reliant on making your own noise to be fed and changed and cared for? Joel has been passed from aunt to uncle to cousin to parent to friend so often already, with no say in the matter. What is this like? This child is watched over and tended with a wondrous intensity that he doesn't even know about. His cousins hold him in immense awe—they can scarcely believe how precious he is. His parents thank God every day for this health and beauty and perfection. And he has brought the amazing blessing of renewed love and joy to our family. Today (Easter Sunday), I look at our new Catholics—the wonderful group who have just completed the RCIA program, have been baptised, and moved into their first faltering steps as Christians. They too have taken on new life, are wondering at everything that is new and now truly theirs. They too feel the poking and prodding of others who don't understand why they have done this thing. The Easter celebrations were new and strange for them, but I know they greatly appreciated the warmth of the welcome they received in the parish. They will continue to meet and be embraced by us, but may also find those who don't even recognize who they are. As a parish, as the body of Christ, we are challenged to offer Amanda, Amber, Jennifer, Kate and Sidney the warmest of welcomes, arms that are open to receive and reassure them and nurture their burgeoning faith. Please hold them in your prayer, in your hearts and minds and give them all the practical support they need as they take their first faltering steps along this new path in membership of the family of Christ.

I somewhat dread the after-Easter evaluation, in case I leave people out, though I know it is an important part of making sure that we offer the best we can for parishioners to grow in their faith, and journey together as a community. This year, I have already grumbled about the difficulties of finding people who were available to assist in ministry at the Easter ceremonies. Now, when all is over, there is nothing else to say but 'thank you' to those who so generously offered their services to our community. I can't name you all, but I particularly note altar servers, sacristans, florists, those who washed all the altar linen, those who tidied the church after each service, collectors and money counters, and so many others who assisted in big and small ways to make the liturgy flow so well. I acknowledge humbly the efforts of our choirs—singers, musicians—who take the time, make the effort, and bring our liturgies to life in praise of God. The parish office staff are so professional, so adaptable, so ready to do whatever is needed to make things run smoothly—they deserve my highest praise. I thank our amazingly articulate readers, who used their skills to make God's work real and alive. The RCIA team members are always ready to do whatever is needed to make this task a joy—thank you all. I know that I have spent little time at St Clare's over Easter, as I have been working so closely with the RCIA members. Fr Bob and Fr Ben have been very keen to tell me how well things had run there, how involved the congregation has been in each ceremony, how the joy of Easter is as vibrant and meaningful to the St Clare's community as at SFX, even without the baptisms and ensuing excitement. I am truly sorry I can't bi-locate, so that I could have shared this with you. Lastly, I have to emphasize how blessed we are to have the Franciscan friars in our parishes. They truly give without counting the cost. They are wise and generous and open and really care about each and every member of this community. In years to come, when you have only one priest between the two parishes, I hope you look back with thanksgiving for all that has been enabled by their readiness to serve you in bringing God's good news to each person, and to the fullness of life they have offered each of you. On a personal note, I'd like to thank those people who sent me notes and cards, encouraging me by their generous responses to the efforts I have made to make Lent and Easter interesting and challenging for your every day lives. This has been a memorable Easter. May it long live in your hearts. May 'alleluia' continue to be your song.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—April 18

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm tba
8.00am tba
10.00am tba
5.00pm tba

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm tba
8.00am tba
10.00am tba
5.00pm tba

Welcomers

6.00pm tba
10.00am tba

Children's Liturgy

Altar Linen

April 11 E O'Brien
April 18 J Reid

Counters

April 11 B&M Walker
April 18 P McGlin, P Madzarevic

Collectors 5pm

April 11 P Aldag
April 18 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

April 11—SFX Church
April 18—J&B Reid, 6 Hamilton St, Blackburn

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

April 11 D Amato
April 18 R Bidnost

Lettori

April 11 G Amato, C Gibellini
April 18 V Peluso, M Salamone

Ministri dell'Eucarista

April 11 M Salamone, G Massarotti
April 18 G Tabacchiera, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—APRIL 18

Ministers of the Word

9.00am—A McGovern, K McMahon, D Hayes

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am—T Nicholson, T Shallvey, J Murphy, I D'Amato, P Wobers, D Wolbers, P Cleary

Piety Stall—April 18

9.00am—P Green

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

For mother & daughter in share bedroom, close to public transport. Please call Susan 0430 023 830

From Fr Ben

There are some people that of they don't know, you can't tell 'em. Loius Armstrong (US trumpeter & singer, 1901-1971)

POINTS TO PONDER

★ *'The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord.'*
What have been your feelings since the events of last week?

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.