



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

2nd Sunday of Lent March 8th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Remember your mercies, Lord, your
tenderness from ages past. Do not let
our enemies triumph over us; O God,
deliver Israel from all her distress.

Psalm Response

I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ! From the shining cloud, the
Father's voice is heard: this is my
beloved Son, hear him. Glory and
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom
is all my delight: listen to him.

This week

*Spend time alone reflecting on
the majesty and mystery of God.
How do you experience the
presence of God.*

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.

THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

Our identity as Christians has many
implications while at the same time our faith is tested.
Life itself can be a test of faith and we don't
necessarily understand all that is going on and
accept it. The question of suffering has always been
a sore point for all religion. The frequently asked
question is - if God is a loving god why would he
allow suffering in our world, especially of the young
and the innocent?

We always attribute life and death to God, but also
the power of the natural world. In the time of
Abraham child sacrifices might have been practised
in other pagan rituals. So it makes sense in the story
of Abraham that he was tested by being asked to
sacrifice his only son. Just at the last minute, an
angel stops Abraham from sacrificing his son and by
divine providence, there was a ram caught by its
horn in a bush which Abraham offered as a burnt
offering. Abraham earned the title, "Father of Faith".
But he also discovered that God doesn't want human
sacrifice - instead God blessed him with descendants
as many as the stars of heaven.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear how God
gave up his only Son to benefit us all. Paul asks,
after such a gift would God refuse anything that he
can give. Not only Jesus died for us, he rose again,
and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads
for us.

Today we hear a father's love for his son (Abraham
and Isaac), and the Father's greater love that did not
spare his Son. Sometimes we reduce love to mere
feeling and affection. Love sometimes requires or
demands sacrifice too. God's love spared Isaac but
God gave up Jesus for our sake.

Today's transfiguration story gives a clue that
suffering and death lead to glory and life. The
paschal mystery should be in the centre of our
Lenten observance. Without the Easter story there is
no joy in our discipline. Transfiguration has meaning
because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. A
few questions that might help you to reflect this
week:

How is your faith being tested?
What is your latest transfiguration experience?
Reflect on what "rising from the dead" means for you.

Fr Anthony ofm

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www.scsfx.org.au

SFX Primary School 9890 1108
www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au

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138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone/Fax 9898 5080
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This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our
father in faith.*

Rom 8:31-34

God did not spare his own son.

Mk 9:2-10

*This is my Son, the beloved,
listen.*

Monday

Dan 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20: 17-28

Thursday

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

Friday

Gen 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28;
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday

Micah 7:14-15, 18-20;
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

NEXT SUNDAY THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Ex 20:1-7

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

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 : 2 April 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

SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT		INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S' DAY MORNING TEA AFTER 9AM MASS AT ST CLARE'S MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
MONDAY 9 MARCH	8.30AM 10.00AM 7.00PM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706 CONFIRMATION CLASS AT SFX PHMR
TUESDAY 10 MARCH	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH	8.30AM 9AM-11AM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME
THURSDAY 12 MARCH	1.30PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—BINGO IN SFX HALL. TRIP TO SAND SCULPTURES AT FRANKSTON CANCELLED. MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME
FRIDAY 13 MARCH	7.30PM 8.00PM-9.00PM	STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN BOTH CHURCHES BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE AFTER THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT.
SATURDAY 14 MARCH	8.30AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome!
SUNDAY 15 MARCH THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT		2 BAPTISMS AT SFX

YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Young people (Year 7 onwards) are invited to take part in the dramatisation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. If you are interested in acting, liturgical dance, music, or assisting in any way, please leave your name at the Parish Office 9890 2231 as soon as possible.

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Unfortunately, the planned trip to the SAND SCULPTURES has had to be cancelled due to lack of participants. Instead, we will meet in the hall, for BINGO, at 1.15. The next Thursday 19th, we will have an afternoon of gentle exercises, with Marlene.
Inquiries:- Judy - 9878 4212.

MEDITATION SUPPORT GROUPS

Continuing on from the Parish Mission, two groups have now been formed to meet at 7.30pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays in SFX parish hall. Each session will last one hour and initially will be based on Fr Justin's seminars and reflections. Newcomers always welcome. Anyone who wishes to further discuss daytime or smaller groups should contact Liz in the Parish Office on 9890 2231.

PRO-LIFE ACTION NEEDED URGENTLY!

The Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith, is under pressure from pro-abortionists, to allow Australian aid to be spent on "abortion services" in third world countries. Please write to him and ask him not to spend our tax dollars in this way. Write to:
The Hon. Stephen Smith MP
House of Representatives, Parliament House
PO BOX 6022, Canberra ACT 2600

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday during Lent @ 7.30pm in both churches.
Volunteers are needed to lead the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7.30pm at SFX. Please call the Parish Office on 9890 2231 if you would like to participate.

NOTICE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at the moment only requires items of food and good clean clothing to be left at the church for distribution to the needy. At the moment general items of merchandise and bric -a - brac etc are being left in the church. A lot of the items being left are not suitable for the op-shop and the volunteers have to dump other people's rubbish. If you think you have items that you think are suitable for the op-shop could you please deliver them to the **SVdP Op-shop at 24 Hamilton Street, Mont Albert**. Thank-you for your cooperation regarding this matter. **Kevin P. Pound SVdP.**

Volunteers are required to help out at the Mont Albert shop . Further information is available from the Manager, Geraldine Grimmer at the shop on 9898 0720. Any help would be much appreciated.

Thankyou to all who contributed to the **First Friday collection for the Sacred Heart school in Sideia, PNG**, in January (\$144.85) and February (\$156.10). This money helps to educate children who might otherwise miss out. *Ivan, Imelda, Judy.*

NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT BOTH CHURCHES THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE COLLECT YOURS & SAVE POSTAGE COSTS TO THE PARISH!

Female Carer required to assist 83 year old lady with very limited mobility. 12pm—2pm Monday to Friday. Box Hill area. Remuneration negotiable. Contact Angela 0413 832 435.

My corner

Last Sunday I was deeply privileged to join our RCIA candidates and other team members at St Patrick's Cathedral for the Rite of Election and Enrolment of Names. Garry was unable to be present due to a family commitment, but Olivia and Diana were very excited and keen to find out exactly what was going to happen. There was a seemingly unending stream of people coming into the cathedral, and a hum of eager anticipation as people found seats, placed the scrolls with their names entered on them in the designated baskets, and waited for the opening hymn and the Archbishop's solemn entry. This is a wonderful ceremony, where parish by parish the catechumens are called forward with their godparents/sponsors, and asked whether they are ready to take this final step in their journey to Baptism and reception into the church. The resounding responses of "They have" in relation to the efforts they have made over the past few months, and the equally loud "We do" expressing their desire to fully enter into the life of the church sent shivers through me, and yes, there was a tear in my eye, as I acknowledged all their hard work and commitment, and the obvious growing faith that is drawing them all closer to Easter. The majesty of the Cathedral with sunlight pouring through stained glass windows, and the strains of vibrant and joyful music made this occasion both solemn and memorable. After the ceremony, our new Elect had photos taken with the Archbishop, and their smiles were a wonderful indication of how meaningful the day had been for them. Their names will now be entered into the Book of the Elect. A major disappointment was that there were no other members of our parish present. I had hoped that all parishioners would by now realise that RCIA is a concern for the whole parish, not just the team. We can't just celebrate that at the Easter Vigil we have new members without making an active contribution throughout the year in support, prayer and welcoming of those seeking to share our faith. Hopefully during the next few weeks of the scrutinies, more parishioners will make positive efforts to be involved in this RCIA process. *Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

PROJECT COMPASSION SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



As Christians we are called to walk with those who are in need. This week's story introduces us to Prabha, who lives in one of India's poorest tribal areas. Water shortages, poor health, illiteracy and trafficking have compounded her community's vulnerability. Prabha participates in a Caritas Australia-supported program that is empowering families to increase their livelihoods and regenerate their environment. Your Project Compassion donation brings hope to families like Prabha's, empowering them to work together for a sustainable future.

R.C.I.A.

Last Sunday, Olivia and I attended the Rite of Election, joined by so many others out in St Patrick's Cathedral. We were both overwhelmed and amazed by how majestic and grand it was, being called in amongst the hundreds of catechumens and candidates and meeting the Archbishop of Melbourne. A truly memorable and special occasion as we declared "we do" also on behalf of Garry and all the RCIA sponsors. Thanks to all who were able to be there especially Fr Anthony, Liz and those who have supported us through RCIA. *Diana*

SFX SCHOOL FAIR

Unfortunately the 2009 Fair has been cancelled. As a result of the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Economic Stimulus Package and the resulting Building Education Revolution (BER) it is highly likely that we will have another building project on the completion of the current project. It would be too difficult to manage a fair and a building project at the same time. This is very exciting news for our community - stay tuned! Given the cancellation we have had to make a decision on some of the progress we made last year, the outcome is as follows:

- The perishable items left over from the market stall last year have been used at the welcome night held recently and were used at the golf day on Friday.
- All those wonderful toys donated last year for the toy stall will continue to be stored away & used throughout the year for fundraising at other events.
- The 2nd hand goods dropped off last year will now be donated to a local organization as it would not be wise to store such items for another year or more, and our storage room is required for other purposes now anyway.

POINTS TO PONDER

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MARCH 15

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm V Bellis, M&A O'Connor, E&A Fabian
 8.00am S Carney, C Chin
 10.00am W Tan, K Fazio, C Hangan, P&R Cussen, L Lampard, M Blundy

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Jeffares, C Gately
 8.00am J Manshon
 10.00am M Robotham, J Tan
 5.00pm E Abraham, J D'Souza

Welcomers

6.00pm M Buhler, G&J Metral
 10.00am L Lampard, V&B Burns

Children's Liturgy

Altar Linen

March 8 U Clifford
 March 15 M Cahill

Counters

March 8 J Reid, M Rossely
 March 15 B&M Walker

Collectors 5pm

March 8 I Mahlstedt
 March 15 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

March 8—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
 March 15—

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

March 8 D Amato
 March 15 R Bidinost

Lettori

March 8 C Gibillini, P Grech
 March 15 N Pozzobon, J Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

March 8 M Casamento, M Salamone
 March 15 D Amato, G Massarotti

ST CLARE'S—MARCH 15

Ministers of the Word

9.00am

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Piety Stall—March 15

9.00am Glass family

YEAR OF ST PAUL

COR 1:25 God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

From Fr Ben A Peanuts cartoon

shows Schroeder with a record of Brahms' Fourth Symphony. "Whataya going to do with it?" asks Lucy. "Listen to it," says Schroeder. "You mean dance to it or sing along with it or tap your feet to it?" asks Lucy. "No, just listen to it," says Schroeder. "Dumbest thing I ever heard," says Lucy.

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.