



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 26th, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek always the face of the Lord.

Psalm Response

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

We will rejoice at the victory of God and make our boast in his great name.

This week

At the end of each day this week, spend a few moments reflecting on how you experienced God's love today + how you extended God's love to others.

POINTS TO PONDER

At Mass, when we sit to hear the reading of God's word, are our minds open to what we may hear? Have we done any preparation, pre-reading? Do we listen or merely hear? Is what we hear going to make any difference in our lives 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.

"You must love the Lord your God"

How do you love God? We know how to love others and behave in a loving way, but with God there is a danger for love to remain as an idea or concept. St Francis used to say, "Love is not loved". I think over the years we believe we have heard enough of loving our neighbours as ourselves, but it is in fact something that we have to work at all our life. It sounds practical and easy but we struggle to put it into practice. We also know that people can get hurt because of love, feeling unappreciated or not valued.

I responded to God's love many years ago by becoming a friar and later a priest to serve God and his people. As I am finding out, it is not a static relationship and it keeps changing and growing. And the more I respond to God in love, the more I discover myself in God and relationship with others becomes an easier, freeing experience and non conditional. It is liberating and life giving. So to put it in a nutshell the more we love God, the more we experience love in our life, and loving others becomes part of God's will. Over the years the glitter wears off, but the enthusiasm and passion for the kingdom grows, and I learn to trust God more and become more authentic or transparent, and see myself as evolving into the mystery of God. Just to say it is a wonderful life may be misleading, but with God I find life and meaning in everything.

It is sad to hear stories of abuse and disillusionment in the Church. Too often I hear stories of love gone wrong, and sometimes I wonder where people draw the strength from to continue loving when the journey is painful. It is also sad to see people looking for love and not finding it, or looking for love in the wrong places. It would be naive to think that we might not get hurt; to love means to be vulnerable because we open ourselves up. If we remain closed, we fail to experience the fullness of life. If we keep looking for affirmation or appreciation only, we might be disheartened in our quest to love others. Our love of God helps us to live, in faith hope and love.

Fr Anthony ofm

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

1 Thess 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

Mt 22: 34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

Monday

Eph 4:32—5:8; Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday—Ss Simon & Jude

Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday

Eph 6:1-9; Lk 13:22-30

Thursday

Eph 6: 10-20; Lk 13: 31-35

Friday

Phil 1:1-11; Lk 14: 1-6

Saturday—ALL SAINTS

Apoc 7:2-4,9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3;

Mt 5:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY

ALL SOULS

Mass of All Souls

Readings from

Masses for the Dead

Friars of the Parishes

Fr Antoni 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 26 OCTOBER	5.00PM	GRADE 2 FAMILY MASS MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA MASS FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE EXAM PERIOD
MONDAY 27 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 28 OCTOBER	12.45PM Ss SIMON & JUDE 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 29 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 30 OCTOBER	1.30PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB-GENTLE EXERCISES WITH MARLENE COULTHARD, PHYSICAL EDUCATION LEADER (SFX HALL) SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING - SFX PHMR
FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER	2.00PM 7.30PM-9PM	DISCUSSION GROUP-JOAN CHITTISTER-SFX PHMR BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE— ALL WELCOME!
SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER		ALL SAINTS DAY

ALL SAINTS DAY—
SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER
ALL SOULS DAY—
SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER
when we remember those who
have died. Please join us at the
Parishes Masses over the
weekend. The Book of Victories
will be available in both Churches.

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—
OAKS DAY

COME ALONG WITH YOUR FRIENDS &
ENJOY A SHARED LUNCH IN SFX HALL -
DRINKS PROVIDED - WATCH THE RACES.
BYO BEST HAT IF YOU WISH!

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**WE ALL SINCERELY THANK LIZ CLARK,**  
**OUR PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, FOR THE**  
**MOST INSPIRING REFLECTION DAY SHE**  
**ORGANISED FOR US LAST THURSDAY.**

**ST CLARE'S PIETY STALL**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS CARDS  
ARE AVAILABLE \$3 FOR A PACK OF 5,  
\$6 FOR 10.  
ALSO AVAILABLE FRANCISCAN &  
COLUMBAN CALENDARS FOR 2009.

*From Fr Ben*

*Half of American people never read a*  
*newspaper. Half never vote for President.*  
*One hopes it is the same half.*  
*(Gore Vidal)*

**SENIORS CHRISTMAS**

Our Thank You Christmas  
Lunch to the Seniors (60+)  
will be held on Sunday  
December 7<sup>th</sup> in SFX  
Parish Hall @ 12.15  
Bookings to the Parish  
Offices—\$15 pp, by Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.



**Help wanted on Sat Dec 6th @ 1pm** to  
help set up.  
**Help wanted on Sunday Dec 7th from**  
**12pm** on to help with serving & washing  
dishes.  
We would also like **Young Parishioners**  
**in Yrs 9 or 10 to help wait on the**  
**tables.**  
Please advise the Parish Office if you are  
able to help.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Come one come all! We are meeting this  
week Thursday Oct 30 @ 7.30pm in the  
SFX PHMR. Come and join the Parish  
Social Committee to plan all the action for  
2009. Such events as Fr Ben's 80th big  
birthday bash & lots more will be discussed.  
If you can't make it but would like help out  
or have any inquiries, please contact the  
Parish office. The Social Committee is just  
that – social!!! Hope to see you there.  
*Jill, Joe & Gerry.*

**HOUSEKEEPING!**

If you have been kind enough to take tea  
towels home from the Tuckshop to wash,  
could you please ensure you return them as  
soon as possible. Many thanks for your  
assistance.

## PARISH DIARY DATES 2009

It is essential for planning purposes that all proposed dates for 2009 be submitted to the Parish Office by Friday November 28. Dates can be emailed to the Parish Office at: [sfbh@celestial.com.au](mailto:sfbh@celestial.com.au) OR the Parish Calendar for 2009 is available during Office Hours for groups to fill their dates. Please call Monique on 9890 2231 with any queries.



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

**Sidamo is a very smooth pleasant strong coffee.** Fairtrade coffee is Certified Organic. 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. **250 gram ground \$7 ea**

**My corner** This week's gospel spells out in the simplest terms how we can gain eternal life. Love God and love your neighbour—and put some effort in to it - nothing half hearted. It seems simple but at times it's quite difficult.

I know a number of people who have recently been retrenched—and I know they are not too sure how to love God in the midst of their fears and concerns. At times, I find it difficult to even get in touch with God—prayer seems empty, my sense of purpose diminishes—how can I love the God I can't find. And loving my neighbour is something else.

I thought about it early one morning this week when I was lying in bed and heard hot air balloons going past my house. I can't resist watching them, so I got up and wandered outside in pyjamas and bare feet to gaze up in admiration. My quiet reverie was cut short by my neighbour calling out over the fence "Is that you Liz?" and then launching into a long and mindless chatter about where they (the balloons) were going and how they got there and how they steered and what the air currents might be doing and which park they would land in and why were there 6 when normally he sees 5 and what he was having for breakfast. Love of neighbour early in the morning isn't always easy. I need to try harder.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

## PROPOSED NEW MASS TIMES

|                 |                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SATURDAY</b> | <b>9.00am St Clare's</b><br><b>6.00pm Vigil SFX</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>   | <b>8.00am SFX</b><br><b>(while we still have an extra priest)</b><br><b>9.00am St Clare's</b><br><b>10.00am SFX</b><br><b>5.00pm SFX</b> |
| <b>BAPTISMS</b> | <b>11.30am St Clare's</b><br><b>12.00/12.30pm SFX</b>                                                                                    |

## THANK YOU!

Today we acknowledge with thanks the group of parents who conduct the Children's Liturgy program in the parish. They work hard to encourage our young people to understand and live the message in each week's Gospel. Their enthusiasm and creativity is certainly appreciated by the children and by the parish as a whole. Would you care to join them? - please phone Liz for more information.

## WELCOME!

If you are reading this then you are one of the people we are seeking to recruit. What we would like is to have someone at each door for the few minutes before Mass to hand out the newsletters and welcome those attending. All you need to do is arrive about 15 minutes before Mass is due to start. You need to take a few copies of the newsletter and stand near a door and welcome those arriving and offer them a copy of the newsletter. We don't plan to roster you on unless you want to be, but it takes no more than arriving early for you to assist in this important ministry. Ask another parishioner, a family member or a friend to join you. Please try it a few times over the next few months. There are plenty of doors so we need plenty of people every week. Let's keep alive that welcoming spirit that inspired the WYD pilgrims who visited us in Box Hill earlier this year and extend a regular welcome to everyone who joins us.

## RECEIVE THE FIRE! - PARISH EVANGELISATION CONFERENCE

Friday, 14th - Sunday, 16th November, 2008  
at St Francis of Assisi, 290 Childs Road,  
Mill Park, Victoria

**Evangelisation! Too hard? Scary? Don't know where to start??**  
Conference Delegates will be shown a way forward to Evangelisation in a Catholic context, covering:

- \* The Core Message of Jesus that is to be shared (Kerygma)
- \* Creative ideas for Parish Outreach Programs
- \* Hands-on Experience participating in parish Creative Evangelisation

**AFTER THE INTERVENTION IN THE NT: A HIGH WATER MARK: A LOW WATER IN OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS—Fr Hilary Martin OP—Tuesday 11 November, 7.30pm—Study Centre YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION—98 Albion Rd, BOX HILL—Donation appreciated.**

## ROSTERS

### ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-NOVEMBER 2 **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

6pm E Colafella, M O'Brien,  
M Rossely, E&A Fabian  
7.30am F Neyland  
9.30am P&R Cussen, J Arcuri, W Tan,  
C Chin, K Fazio, M Chan  
5pm P McLaughlin

### **Ministers of the Word**

6pm M Dodds, J Wells  
7.30am C Gately  
9.30am M Kirwan, K Kirwan  
5pm L Mayne, M Waring

### **Welcomers**

6pm M Buhler, G&J Metral  
9.30am V&B Burns

### **Children's Liturgy**

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

### **Altar Linen**

October 26 M Rossely  
November 2 J Morison

### **Counters**

October 26 J Reid, M Rossely  
November 2 T&E O'Brien

### **Collectors 5pm**

October 26 P Aldag  
November 2 A Cutts

### **Rosary Statue**

October 26—P&M Poropat, 10 William St  
November 2—M O'Meara, 14 Sweetland Rd

## ITALIAN MASS

### **Commentator**

October 26 J Adamo  
November 2 P Grech

### **Lettori**

October 26 A Basile, L Ferola  
November 2 C Chessari, LA Lanza

### **Ministri dell'Eucarista**

October 26 R Bidinost, C Chessari  
November 2 D Amato, G Tabacchiera

### ST CLARE'S—NOVEMBER 2

### **Ministers of the Word**

8.30 P Fitzgerald, T Nicholson  
10.30 K McDonald, M Hardy

### **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

8.30am J Murphy, A McGovern, F Fitzgerald  
10.30am D Tan, P Ciccotosto, P O'Brien

### **Piety Stall—November 2**

8.30 E Boyle 10.30 D Tan

**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.**