

# St Francis Xavier and St Clare

3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Year B ~ 11 December 2011

## From the prophet Isaiah

Isa 61:1-2.10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;  
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.  
'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.  
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'  
The word of the Lord.

## Psalm (All) Lk 1:46-50. 53f

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.  
The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.  
He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

## From the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Thess 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you. The word of the Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation (All) Is 61:1

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

## From the holy Gospel according to John

Jn 1:6-8.19f

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.  
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: *a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.*' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.  
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Gathering** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near.

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

**Communion** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.  
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER**

1087 Whitehorse Road  
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Facsimile 9898 4392  
email: [sfbxh@celestial.com.au](mailto:sfbxh@celestial.com.au)  
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**SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL** 9890 1108  
[www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au)

**PARISH OF ST CLARE**

138 Woodhouse Grove  
North Box Hill, 3129  
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**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 12 noon  
Confessions: Sat 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  
TODAY**

In order to prepare for our Parish Stewardship Campaign in the early part of 2012, we are gathering an update of our Census. **Today** we are 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 TODAY.**

Thank you in anticipation.  
**Fr Peter McGrath**

**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK -**

MON: NUM 24:2-7, 15-17; MT 21:23-27  
TUES: ZEPH 3:1-2, 9-13; MT 21:28-32  
WED: IS 45:6-8, 18, 21-25; LK 7:18-23  
THURS: IS 54:1-10; LK 7:24-30  
FRI: IS 56:1-3, 6-8; JN 5:33-36  
SAT: GEN 49:2, 8-10; MT 1:1-17  
**NEXT SUNDAY—4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
2 SAM 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16;  
ROM 16:25-27; LK 1:26-38

**LITURGY SPOT SPECIAL!**

**ADVENT – RECONCILIATION**

A time to seek the Saving Lord, Jesus.

As we move through the Advent weeks the prayers call us, "O Lord stir up your power; we pray you come and help us to seek your saving love and forgiveness. Hasten to us Saving Lord Jesus."

The second Rite of Reconciliation invites us to celebrate together as a parish community the loving Christ Child sent to be with us as our Saving Lord. Let us respond to this invitation and gather on next

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December  
at 7.30pm in**

**St Clare's Church for our  
Advent Rite of Reconciliation.**

*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. MANY DIFFERENT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL POST OFFICE! 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 PRACTICE**

**Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in St Clare's Church.**

We are needing some "extras" to replace our wonderful young Chinese folk who joined us for Brother Harry's Diaconate celebration.



Many thanks to our own great team as we did make a "wonderful sound!"

If you can "lend us your voice!" please come along to join us.

*Sr Moira*

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
ITALIAN MASS**

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



**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.

<b>SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER</b>	<b>12.15PM</b>	<b>SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b>
<b>MONDAY 12 DECEMBER</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>	<b>SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)</b>
<b>TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER</b>	<b>12.45PM</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)</b>
<b>ST LUCY</b>	<b>7.30PM</b>	<b>CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST CLARE'S</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>	<b>TENNIS GROUP (As MONDAY)</b>
<b>ST JOHN OF THE CROSS</b>	<b>7.30PM</b>	<b>PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE AT ST CLARE'S</b>
<b>THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER</b>	<b>6.30PM</b>	<b>YEAR 6 GRADUATION MASS &amp; DINNER</b>
<b>FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER</b>	<b>7.30PM</b>	<b>BIBLE STUDY GROUP IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM</b>
<b>SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>	<b>PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX CHURCH</b>
<b>SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER</b>		

**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, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in SFX Church, are requested to note our Parish Preparation Program dates – Mondays 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March (due to Labour Day Monday Holiday), Mondays 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March / 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 for the Confirmation Sacrament of 2012.

**MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION APPEAL**

Since its foundation in 1969, Melbourne parishioners have supported our own mission fund to help developing nations. This has marked our Archdiocese for its exceptional generosity. Currently, the major beneficiaries are people in Papua New Guinea, Timor, India, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Botswana, Nigeria & Peru. Archbishop Denis Hart commends the fund to your continuing support. Donations of \$2.00 & over are tax deductible.

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](http://www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au)

**We pray for those recently deceased: Sr Therese Condon; those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bernie O'Shea, Monica Whitbourne, John Buttigieg, Walter Ryan, Giuseppe Calabro, Roman Kolecki; and the sick of our Parish: Elizabeth Dwyer, Bodie Windsor, Bev Poynton, 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.

**FOR YOUR DIARY!**

Please note—Lunar New Year Celebration for the Parish will be on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> 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.



**OUR SFX CHURCH PROGRESS**

The 'site' meeting this past week has given us a great report from the architect and builder and all is going well to plan, with steady progress each week. Painters and plasterers will be underway this coming Monday, so be assured the "hidden treasure" is going well! Our Sacred Articles will be completed with their refurbishment before Christmas and will look fabulous!

**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.*

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.**

**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 18**

**Ministers of Communion**  
6.00pm G Machado, R Meyers, J Morison  
M T Francisco  
5.00pm  
**Ministers of the Word**  
6.00pm L Hughes, M Jeffares  
5.00pm C Leung, M Slevison  
**Welcomers**  
6.00pm J Morison  
**Altar Linen**  
December 11 R Meyers  
December 18 E O'Brien  
**SFX COUNTERS AT ST CLARE'S**  
December 11 R&Y Roy  
December 18 J Reid, M Rossely

**Rosary Statue**  
Dec 11—M Scarfe, 12 Clota Ave  
Dec 18—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

**ITALIAN MASS**  
**Commentator**  
December 11 P Grech  
December 18 G Amato

**Lettori**  
December 11 M Salamone, D Amato  
December 18 C Gibellini, P Grech  
**Ministri dell'Eucarista**  
December 11 D Amato, M Casamento  
December 18 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera

**ST CLARE'S—December 18**  
**Ministers of the Word**  
Sr Moira, L Soulsby, M Soulsby  
**Ministers of Communion**  
J Murphy, P Cleary, A Kennedy, D Tan, W Tan, K de Lacy, M Blundy  
**Welcomers—December 18**  
A Kennedy, H Keown  
**Piety Stall—December 18**  
Glass family

**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.*