



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

3rd Sunday of Lent March 15th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are ever fixed on the Lord, for
he releases my feet from the snare. O
look at me and be merciful, for I am
wretched and alone.

Psalm Response

Lord, you have the words of
everlasting life.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king
of endless glory! God loved the world
so much, he gave us his only Son, that
all who believe in him might have
eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless glory!

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow even finds a home, the
swallow finds a nest wherein to place
her young, near to your altars, Lord of
hosts, my King, my God! How happy
they who dwell in your house! For ever
they are praising you.

This week

*Express some 'righteous anger' this
week about something which disorders
our world, e.g., inequality, human rights
abuse, exclusion.*

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.

Stop making my father's house a marketplace!

One of the highlights for me when travelling is to
go down to the local markets. Most of the
markets in Asia are very interesting, you see all
sorts of things including near-extinct creatures
for sale. Those with bargaining skills can be
seen haggling over prices and tourists wander
around taking photos and looking for specials.
The markets are always chaotic and noisy, with
traders harassing customers and trying to make
a sale. I love them because they reflect the
lives of the local people.

I read today's gospel and reflected on the
scrutinies for our RCIA Elect preparing for
baptism. Here we are inviting them to the
Father's house from the market place so to
speak. As we do that, we too need to reflect and
examine ourselves as to whether we have
turned our Father's house into a market place?

We are not immune to the changing nature of
our world, nor do we live in the dichotomy of
faith and life. Who we are and what we believe
are reflected in the way we live and the way we
deal with people. The sin of greed, as the Pope
highlighted recently, brought the world economy
down and many are suffering because of the
sins of a few. Lent is a time for reflection and of
preparation to celebrate the Paschal mystery.
To what are we inviting our Elect? Is our faith
life-giving and are we modelling our lives based
on the gospel? Are we truly the body of Christ?

The Church is a place for sinners and saints.
We have to constantly remind ourselves that we
make Christ present in our world. If we stop
living the gospel or make compromises, then in
a way, we are turning God's house into a
supermarket. We can subscribe to the
consumer mentality of buying services and
sacraments from the Church, instead of taking
on some responsibility for the life and mission of
the Church as a household. Are we excited at
the prospect of welcoming new members to our
faith family? "Many began to believe in his
name when they saw the signs he was doing".
What are the signs that show that you are
members of the body of Christ?

Fr Anthony ofm

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Parish of St Clare

138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129

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READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Scrutinies—6pm Mass

Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

Ex 20:1-17

*The Law was given through
Moses.*

1 Cor 1:22-25

*We are preaching a crucified
Christ, a scandal to many, but to
those who have been called, the
wisdom of God.*

Jn 2:13-25

*Destroy this sanctuary, and in
three days, I will raise it up.*

Monday

2 Kg 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday—St Patrick

Jer 1:4-9; Acts 13:46-49;
Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Wednesday

Deut 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Thursday—St Joseph

2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Rom 4:13,
16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24

Friday

Hosea 14: 2-10; Mk 12: 28-34

Saturday

Hosea 5:15-6:6; Lk 18:9-14

NEXT SUNDAY

4th SUNDAY OF LENT

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

The following Year A Readings
will be used at the 9am Mass at
St Clare's: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7,
10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

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 15 MARCH 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT		MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 2 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 16 MARCH	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME.
	10.00AM	FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706
	7.00PM	CONFIRMATION CLASS AT SFX PHMR
TUESDAY 17 MARCH ST PATRICK	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 18 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 19 MARCH ST JOSEPH	1.15PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—GENTLE EXERCISES IN SFX HALL MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME CHILDREN'S LITURGY MEETING IN SFX PHMR
FRIDAY 20 MARCH	4.00PM 7.30PM 8.00PM-9.00PM	CHOIR PRACTICE IN SFX CHURCH—ALL WELCOME STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN BOTH CHURCHES BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE AFTER THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT.
SATURDAY 21 MARCH	8.30AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome!
SUNDAY 22 MARCH 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT		SCRUTINIES AT 9AM MASS AT ST CLARE'S 3 BAPTISMS AT SFX

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week, the Autumn Friendship club will meet in the hall at 1.15. for gentle exercises with Marlene. Marlene's exercises ARE gentle - and a lot of fun. 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 lasts one hour and initially will be based on Fr Justin's seminars and reflections. Newcomers always welcome.

The **LIFE WALK**, to raise funds for Right to Life Pregnancy Counselling, will this year start from Hamilton, on Easter Tuesday, April 14 and end in Melbourne on Sunday, April 19. You can walk for one day or several or just for a few hours. Inquiries 9387 7098.

OPEN DOORS

The next Remembrance Service for Pregnancy Loss is Tuesday 23 March at the Church of Christ, 13 Bedford Rd, Ringwood at 8pm. The service is open to anyone grieving the loss of an unborn child. Family & friends welcome. Details: 9879 2332.

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.

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

LENT
PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE
Wednesday April 1 @ 7.30pm at SFX
& Thursday April 2 @ 2.00pm at
St Clare's.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Each Friday during Lent in both
churches @ 7.30pm.

GOOD FRIDAY
YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS
@ 10am at SFX,
ITALIAN STATIONS OF THE CROSS
@ 7pm at SFX.

**LECTORS, MINISTERS OF
COMMUNION, ALTAR SERVERS**
IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE FOR MASSES
DURING THE EASTER PERIOD, COULD YOU
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE
PARISH OFFICE THIS WEEK, SO THAT
ROSTERS CAN BE ARRANGED AND YOU
WILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO PREPARE.

POINTS TO PONDER:
Jesus, even on the cross Your arms
were spread open in welcome to
me.'

RCIA

My name is Diana and I am so excited to be finally being baptised as this is something I have always wanted to do being brought up as a Christian. My first introduction into Catholic faith was through meeting my lovely husband and after enquiring about the RCIA, I have come to a deeper understanding of what this means. I am grateful and blessed to have met such wonderful encouragement through Fr Anthoni, for his patient guidance, Liz, for her teaching, and Lisa my sponsor.



LET US BE RESPONSIBLE—POSITIVE NEWS AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION

The aim is to lobby our federal government to request the media industry that all news broadcasts include a minimum of 10% of their total content of happy and positive news reports. *Letter is available to take home at the back of the churches.*

My corner

I have attended a number of Lenten study groups over the past few weeks. These groups meet quietly in homes, in the parish house at St Clare's or at Bedford Heights, and we have a good solid core of members who come back year after year to give some time to thinking about what Lent means for them, what the week's readings may mean, what they can do to adjust things in their lives. Newcomers are always welcome and fit in easily to the various groups. One of the things that continually gets to me (in the best of ways) about these groups is the wisdom that comes out of the silences of listening, of pondering words, of waiting to share from our personal experiences.

Sometimes a word says everything; sometimes a tear touches hearts; sometimes a long drawn out story teaches its own lesson, sometimes more silence is the only answer. I have attended

3 sessions while it has been raining, a rare event in itself. Maybe it's something about the rain that causes us to be more reflective, more open, more grateful. Whatever it is, the shared word becomes more meaningful, the knowledge that underneath we are all the same is more evident, the same knowledge that curiously shows us just how different we are, how complex each one's thought processes are, seems to bind the group closely together, bringing out the best in each person. I am privileged to share the stories and the silences. I am blessed by the openness and honesty of those who seek with me to make Lent more meaningful, to travel towards Easter with a more purposeful step.

*Liz Clark,
Pastoral Associate*

PROJECT COMPASSION THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



To bring about the kingdom of God, we must be transformed within ourselves and our community. This week's story takes us to Papua New Guinea where Junior is learning organic farming skills, as well as leadership, community

responsibility, cooking, health and hygiene. Two years ago he was in danger of becoming one of Port Moresby's infamous 'raskols', but since participating in the Caritas Australia project run by the Archdiocese of Port Moresby's Social Action Centre, Junior has taken a path of hope. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps 'street boys' in Papua New Guinea to learn practical new skills for a positive future in their communities.

R.C.I.A.—SCRUTINIES

Over the next three weeks we will celebrate the Scrutiny Rites at one Mass each weekend. You may wonder what place this has in the RCIA. **Scrutinies** are rites held during Lent for self searching and repentance. *The purpose of the scrutinies is to eliminate divisive elements in our lives, to become 'single hearted' in the love of Christ (Hixon '97).* To do this we must be prepared to *scrutinise* our hearts. This requires genuine self knowledge, knowledge of Christ, a perception of sin, true repentance, honesty, courage and a commitment to be converted, to become a disciple of Jesus As they prepare for Baptism at Easter, our elect, Diana and Olivia, will take part in a special ceremony where the whole community prays with them as they seek to dismiss from their lives the things that are not of the Spirit. A prayer of **exorcism** is included in the rite, as the priest prays for protection from all evil and from the power of Satan. Scrutinies are not just for the Elect. Lent is a time where all are expected to take stock, to scrutinise their lives in the light of God's great love. We are all involved in this important part of the RCIA preparation period, as we acknowledge our sinfulness and receive new strength in the midst of our faith journeys, opening our hearts to receive the gift of Jesus.

CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITABLE FUND—Bushfire Appeal

- ★ Number of parishes that have contributed: 131
- ★ Amount contributed by parishes: \$572,244.45
- ★ Amount contributed by other donors: \$1,367,457.05
- ★ Total funds raised to date: \$1,939,702.30

www.melbourne.catholic.org.au

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MARCH 22

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

5.00pm 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

9.00am

Piety Stall—March 15

9.00am Glass family

YEAR OF ST PAUL

EPH 2:4-10

We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

From Fr Ben

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend...if you have one." -George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill.

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second...if there is one." -Winston Churchill, in response.

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.