

# St Francis Xavier and St Clare

4th Sunday of Advent ~ Year B ~ 18 December 2011

## **From the second book of Samuel**

2 Sam 7:1-5.8f

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'" The word of the Lord.

## **Psalm (All) Ps 88:2-5.27.29**

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established  
as the heavens. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:  
I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'  
He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'  
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure

## **From the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

Rom 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord.

## **Gospel Acclamation (All)**

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

## **From the holy Gospel according to Luke**

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her. The Gospel of the Lord.

**Gathering** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down  
the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

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

**Communion** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel

**PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER**

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**SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL** 9890 1108  
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**PARISH OF ST CLARE**

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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**

In order to prepare for our Parish Stewardship Campaign in the early part of 2012, we are gathering an update of our Census. If you were not at Mass last weekend or did not fill out a Census Card, please do so today and place it in the collection plate. We are asking **everyone** to renew or give us your current information including email address. You may thinking 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.  
**Fr Peter McGrath OFM**  
**Parish Priest**

**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**

**STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

During the months of February & March 2012, we will conduct our Stewardship Program. The program will examine our role as stewards of God's gifts of time. Talent and treasures, but it will also examine our stewardship of the earth's resources—water, oil, forests, land, etc. it will seek a financial commitment for the parish—but it will also ask how we use **all** of our practical and material resources.

We do need your help and support during this important time for the parish. Your stewardship of the parish over the next few months will determine to a large degree the type of parish we will be over the next few years. Will we be strong and viable or living hand to mouth? Please pray for—and actively support—the program.

**LITURGY SPOT SPECIAL!**

**ADVENT: "WAITING UPON THE LORD" – MARY**

This final week of our "waiting upon the Lord" fills us with the anticipation of our Christmas celebrations almost with us.

Mary, the mother of Jesus was also full of the anticipation of giving birth to her child. Mary's preparations were not as planned I am sure, she probably had her humble home up in Nazareth ready, but God had other plans! And she found herself on the road to Bethlehem – on a donkey!

This week we may stop along our own way, have a "time-out with a cuppa" and "wait upon the Lord" with Mary; she will share all your anxieties, hopes, wishes and deeper desires for now and in the times ahead! Like Mary, let us open ourselves to God's plans and pray with her, "Let it be done to me according to your word" as nothing is impossible to God.

**Sr Moira, Liturgy Coordinator**

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in St Clare's Church.



In order to have a "joyful, full sound!" on Christmas Eve 9.00pm Carols and Christmas Mass at 9.30pm, we would really appreciate some more "voices" especially male voices! Please come and join our small valiant choir so we can raise our voices for truly lovely celebration. Thanks in anticipation. **Sr Moira.**



**CHRISTMAS DAY ITALIAN MASS**

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

**THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you to all the helpers for the Seniors Lunch, on both Saturday and Sunday. 100 of our senior parishioners enjoyed a wonderful afternoon!



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ARE ON THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

*We pray for those recently deceased: John Santamaria; those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fr Leo Kelly, Moira Lindsey, William Rehfish; and the sick of our Parish: Elizabeth Dwyer, Bodie*

**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 \$4480. Thank you.

<b>SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER</b>		
<b>MONDAY 19 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 20 DECEMBER</b>	<b>12.45PM 7.30PM</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) CHOIR PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS AT ST CLARE'S</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER</b>	<b>8.30AM 3.30PM</b>	<b>TENNIS GROUP (As MONDAY) SCHOOL TERM 4 ENDS</b>
<b>THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER</b>	<b>1.00PM</b>	<b>PARISH OFFICE CLOSED (REOPENS WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY AT 9.30AM)</b>
<b>FRIDAY 23 DECEMBER</b>		
<b>SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER</b>	<b>6.00PM 9.30PM</b>	<b><u>FAMILY MASS (CAROLS AT 5.30PM) AT SFX SCHOOL OVAL</u> <u>CHRISTMAS EVE MASS (CAROLS AT 9PM) AT ST CLARE'S</u></b>
<b>SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER</b>	<b>9.30AM</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY MASS AT ST CLARE'S</b>

## ROSTERS

### CHRISTMAS ROSTER AT ST CLARE'S

24th December—9.30pm

#### Ministers of the Word:

T Nicholson, P Fitzgerald, C Hardy  
Ministers of Communion:  
P O'Brien, A McGovern, T Shallvey,  
P Ciccotosto, M O'Brien, M Rossely,  
J Reid

25th December—9.30am

#### Ministers of the Word:

K McMahon, M Williamsz, D Tan  
Ministers of Communion:  
H Keown, J Murphy, I D'Amato,  
D Williamsz, H Dyjak, N Succar

## 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.

**SFX Parish Office will close on  
Thursday December 22 at 1.00pm  
& will reopen on Wednesday January  
18th at 9.30am.**

***Urgent messages only may be left on  
the answering machine & one of the  
friars will respond when they are  
able.***

## PARISH YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The party will be on Thursday the 22nd of December in the St Clare parish hall, from 6 until 9:30 pm, for the youth of the parish. There will be live music and food, and we would love to see everyone there.

## ST CLARES GRADE 6 1975 REUNION

Were you a Grade 6 student at St Clares Catholic Primary school, Killara St., Box Hill Nth in 1975?

Do you know of someone who was?  
We are inviting ALL students who were part of this year level to:

### THE ST. CLARES GRADE 6 1975 REUNION

VENUE : The Blackburn Hotel – Lounge Bar

WHEN: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012

TIME: 8pm – 1am

Cocktail food provided, drinks at bar prices.  
RSVP with payment (approx \$30) by 14<sup>th</sup> April  
Angela Sydor (Garner) [asydor@live.com.au](mailto:asydor@live.com.au)  
0411251148

or Steve Santamaria [stevesanta@mac.com](mailto:stevesanta@mac.com)  
0418388533

Please bring along any memorabilia you'd like to share on the night. Photos can be sent to [pand@lizzy.com.au](mailto:pand@lizzy.com.au) to be included on a slide show.

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK -

MON: JUDGES 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25

TUES: IS 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

WED: SONG 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45

THURS: 1 SAM 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

FRI: MALACHI 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

## SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION/ FIRST COMMUNION 2012

Parents of children from State Primary Schools or High Schools who wish to enrol their children in our parish program for 2012, please see the information set out below.

Registration & Information for these two sacraments: Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 7pm in St Clare's Hall.

Program begins – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - Mass Presentation of the children at 9.30am Mass in St Clare's Church.

Classes begin: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm to 5pm in St Clare's buildings.

The dates of the actual Sacramental Celebrations are: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 7.30pm– Reconciliation  
Sundays 5<sup>th</sup> August or 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at the 9.30am Mass in St Clare's Church.

Contact number – Parish Office 9890 2231 if wishing to clarify the above. All registrations are only taken at the March 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 evening meeting. No Late Registrations are possible.

**DURING THE DECEMBER/JANUARY  
BREAK, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF  
COMMUNION & MINISTERS OF THE  
WORD ARE REQUESTED TO VOLUNTEER  
AT MASSES AS REQUIRED.**

### Altar Linen

December 18 E O'Brien

December 25 J Reid

### Rosary Statue

Dec 18—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

Dec 26—M&L Soulsby, 7 Simpsons Rd

### ITALIAN MASS

#### Commentator

December 18 G Amato

December 25 G Tabacchiera

#### Lettori

December 18 C Gibellini, P Grech

December 25 N Pozzobon, J Amato

#### Ministri dell'Eucarista

December 18 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera

December 25 M Casamento, M Salamone

## FOR YOUR DIARY!

Please note—Lunar  
New Year

Celebration for the  
Parish will be on  
Saturday January 28th 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.



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.*

## 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.