



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time January 31st, 2010—Year C

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Save us, Lord our God, and gather us together from the nations, that we may proclaim your holy name and glory in your praise.

Psalm Response

I will sing of your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant, and save me by your love. Lord, keep me from shame, for I have called to you.



Serving God through the Church

How I feel and what I think keeps changing, as if I am moving through a passage of time. Yet one thing remains the same, like Jeremiah I feel called by God, the more I wrestle the more I feel over powered by God's love.

The demands of ministry, either dealing with difficult situations or with those who make it hard for us to love them, are not just challenging but draining too. We mature and grow spiritually when we face crises in life and make difficult decisions. Just after Christmas on Monday the 28th December after the midday mass there were 12-15 people waiting to see me after mass in the sacristy. I turned and said to them all "Give me a break..." Many might not have realised that by then I had celebrated 11 masses, Christmas was on Friday and on Saturday I was back on duty with all the masses for the weekend. I thought surely people must realise how tired I must be not just celebrating masses, but attending to all the other demands, plus answering the door and phone. God I need a break!

It is not about the twelve people, but the current situation that we are facing; priests for the Italian mass, Frs. Bob and Ben's health and well being, buildings and maintenance, finance, staff, pastoral care, and on top of that my mother had a fall and broke her leg, so you see I have a few things in my mind. These are mammoth tasks; I cannot do it without your help, support and wisdom. Our lives are intertwined; I am sustained and nourished by God and by you. Not only that, we as a faith community need to continually reflect and listen to the direction God is leading us. We cannot just keep blaming others or making demands, without putting in any effort to change things. We have a prophetic role as a Church in our world.

My frustration is not about our parish or the work load; at times I feel we are just plugging holes rather than reflecting where we want to direct our energy and resources as a Church. I wonder as a Church what our expectations are of parish life and priesthood. Where are our prophets?

Fr Anthony ofm

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This newsletter is also available on our website:
www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK **4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13
There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Lk 4:21-30
Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the Jews.

Monday—2 Sam 15:
13-14,30,16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday—Presentation of the Lord—Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18;
Lk 2:22-40

Wednesday
2 Sam 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday
1 Kg 2:1-4,10-12; Mk 6:7-13

Friday—St Agatha
Sirach 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday—St Paul Miki & companions
1Kg 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

NEXT SUNDAY
5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is 6:1-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11;
Lk 5:1-11

This week

This week reach out to someone who has experienced rejection. Offer solace to someone in need of healing.

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.

FRIARS OF THE PARISHES

Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm
Parish Priest
Fr Benignus Clowes ofm
Assistant Priest
Fr Bob Matthews ofm
Assistant Priest

Pastoral Associate—Liz Clark

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

In the event of needing a priest urgently, please telephone 9890 2231 at any time of the day.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Veronika Bellis *Liz Clark*
Pat Cleary *Dianna Hardy*
Breta Cohen *Carmel Purdey*
Ann-Marie Diggins *Monique Waring*
Jane D'Souza *(ex-officio)*

Anthony Kennedy
Peter Leonard
Next meeting : 4 February 2010

LITURGY 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 31 JANUARY	12.30PM	BAPTISM AT SFX
MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY		PREPS START SCHOOL
TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY	12.30PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY	7.30PM 7.30PM	MEDITATION GROUP—SFX PHMR KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS—ST CLARE'S
THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY	1.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—MUSICAL AFTERNOON AT SC
FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY		
SATURDAY 6 FEBRUARY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP. MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE. ALL WELCOME!
SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY		

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week— A musical afternoon. with John and Theresa Parker, and Carolina David, Opera Singer at 1.30pm, at St. Clare's.
Next Week—Tenpin Bowling – at AMF Forest Hill Bowl – 3rd level, opposite the cinema. Meet at 1.30 for a 2 pm start. One game with shoe hire and afternoon tea costs \$12.50. Afternoon tea only - \$4.50. Ring Marg 9803 4973 if you are coming.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE - This is an initiative started in 2004 in a small US town, by four people who prayed continuously outside an abortion centre for 40 days. By 2009, the programme had extended to 204 centres and involved 175 000 people - and the abortion centres experienced dramatic downturns in business (including three closing up immediately after) abortion staff quitting and a revitalisation of prolife activity in the groups and churches involved. Now the Helpers of God's Precious Infants have decided to run 40 DAYS FOR LIFE in Melbourne, starting on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Palm Sunday. And many pray-ers will be needed – PLEASE, consider, whether YOU could help, even for an hour or two. Further details on the back page - and on the prolife board in SFX porch and at back of SC church.

LENTEN STUDY/DISCUSSION GROUP

As a preparation for Easter, you are offered an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the Sunday gospels in Lent with a group of other parishioners. Please fill in the form below, nominating a day and time that would suit you ↓↓↓

PLAYGROUP

Playgroup will resume on Wednesday 24 February at 9:00am. Playgroup will continue to be held on Wednesday, as this is the day that suits most, between the hours of 9am-11am. The location will remain at St Clare's basement until the middle of the year, and further updates will be give when dates and locations are finalised. "Fees" continue to be \$1 for each child over 12 months and a piece of fruit to be shared at morning tea.

DONATIONS OF TOYS AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING needed for Samata Sarana, Kindigoda, Sri Lanka. Samata Sarana feeds over 500 people a day, runs a day care centre for single parents, a school for over 300 plus children who also receive breakfast and lunch, a day centre for the elderly who are also fed and sent home with dinner packets. **Please contact: Michelle on 9898 7021 or leave at Parish Office during office hours.**

From Fr Ben
Possessions, outward success, publicity, luxury—to me, these have always been contemptible. I believe that a simple and unassuming manner of life is best for everyone, best both for the body and for the mind.
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

LENTEN STUDY/DISCUSSION GROUP
I would like to participate in a discussion group.

Name: _____ **Phone No:** _____

Preferred day: _____ **Preferred time: am/pm** _____

PLEASE LEAVE IN COLLECTION PLATE OR RETURN TO PARISH OFFICE

CONFIRMATION

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at SFX on Sunday May, 2010. classes will commence on Monday February 22 at 7pm for parish children from Year 6 onwards, who are not attending our school. If you wish to apply, please phone the Parish Office for enrolment information.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each week, more 1,000 people sit down to prepare the Sunday bulletin for Catholic parishes in Australia. Some 70,000 separate parish bulletins are prepared each year!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

On January 20, Pope Benedict XVI invited us to pray to the Lord for 'the visible unity of all Christians': 'The modern ecumenical movement has become an important element in the life of the Church. It not only favours fraternal relations between Churches and ecclesial communities, in response to the commandment to love, ... but also stimulates theological research. Furthermore, it involves the real life of Churches and ecclesial communities, with themes that concern pastoral care and sacramental life.' He added: 'Ecumenical work is not a linear process, the old problems that arose in another age lose their importance, giving way to problems and difficulties of our own time. For this reason we must always be willing to accept a process of purification, through which the Lord makes us capable of unity.'

My corner

On my desk, I have one of those calendars that you flip over each day for an inspirational message to motivate you to greater things. One that really gave me a good reason to think this week said: *When I stand before God at the end of my life, I hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say 'I used everything you gave me.'* It certainly challenges me to think carefully about my gifts/talents, and what I do with them. It also explains to me how some elderly people approach death so peacefully and easily—they have an awareness of having done all that they needed to. The second readings for recent Sundays have been all about our giftedness, our uniqueness, our diversity, and this week is no different. It suggests that of all gifts, the greatest is love. Each day we are called to expend this gift through love of family, neighbour, colleagues, classmates, strangers and those we don't like at all. Jeremiah reminds us today of God's love—of how God knew us intimately and loved us before we were even formed. It's by acknowledging this sort of love—the love that created us all equally as brothers and sisters, that we learn to truly love one another—by seeing with God's eyes, loving with God's heart. A second quote from this week's calendar said *Here is the test to find whether your mission on earth is finished. If you're alive it isn't.* Test if you are still alive by checking out the ways you love one another.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

1. Thoughts on the Gospel

'Jesus was doubly offensive to his hearers, and for opposite reasons: first, he was too familiar: the man who had grown up in their midst and apparently not been remarkable, is suddenly speaking about the meaning of the Scripture, as if he *knew* at first hand what it was all about, as if he was at the cutting edge of God's revelation. 'This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen.'

'Secondly, Jesus offended by showing that God's love and care were not restricted to the people of Israel. In fact in the two cases he mentioned he suggests that God neglected people in Israel in favour of foreigners, and, in one case, in favour of an enemy soldier.

'The question is, quite simply, whose voice do we listen to? If we listen first to the voice of our family, our tribe, our nation, our allies, we may not be ready to hear the voice of God. If we try to listen first to God's voice, then we could find ourselves in conflict with that family voice. It happens now: there are many heroic Christians -- and others -- who are working hard to offer dignity and help to asylum seekers; it's not a popular line to take, but it's one of those instances when you have to choose between your faith and the *Daily Mail* or the *Sun*, to put it bluntly.

'We can either be on the side of outcasts, with Jesus; or we can make him an outcast, as the good religious people of Nazareth did on that occasion.'
Excerpt from a homily by Fr Colin Carr OP

2. Thoughts on the Gospel

'Jeremiah wanted no part of being a prophet. This avocation seemed to be nothing but trouble, and with good reason: prophets of the past had a nasty habit of getting hassled, being rejected, getting beat up, sometimes, ending up dead. Nevertheless, God was adamant that Jeremiah live a prophetic life - that is, being willing to speak the truth, being able to tell it 'like it is' - and that He would sustain Jeremiah in the face of whatever opposition or dangers he might encounter.

'No surprise that Jesus, too, experienced his share of opposition, hostility and rejection. As today's Gospel illustrates, speaking the truth - living the truth - sometimes stirs up its own share of hornets' nests.

'By virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation we, too, are called to live life in a prophetic manner. Regardless of how much or little of the truth that we speak in a manner that is as calm, humble, gentle and respectful as humanly possible, the bottom line is that we cannot always predict - and certainly cannot control - how that truth will be heard or received by others. Jesus promised us that the truth will set us free. Jesus never promised us that it would always be easy.'
Excerpts from a homily by Fr Michael S. Murray, OSFS

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—February 7

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF

COMMUNION & MINISTERS OF THE WORD ARE REQUESTED TO VOLUNTEER AT MASSES

AS REQUIRED.

Children's Liturgy—TBA

Altar Linen

January 31 J Morison
February 7 M Rossely

Counters

January 31 P McGlin, P Madzarevic
February 7 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

Collectors 5pm

January 31 P Aldag
February 7 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

January 31—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St
February 7—M Charles, 4/97 Hawthorn Rd, FH

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

January 31 G Tabacchiera
February 7 G Amato

Lettori

January 31 A Lanza, L Ferola
February 7 M Salamone, V Peluso

Ministri dell'Eucarista

January 31 G Tabacchiera, R Bidinost
February 7 M Salamone, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—February 7

Ministers of the Word

9.00am J Sakowski, M Hardy, P Sakowski

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am J Murphy, D Tan, I D'Amato,
P Ciccotosto, H Keown, D Hardy

Piety Stall—February 7

9.00am Glass family

MINISTRY IN THE PARISH

Sincere thanks to the many generous parishioners who share their talents and their time in assisting with the smooth running of liturgies and various services within the parish. As we begin the new year, we need to know if anyone wishes to withdraw from their current ministry, or if any parishioners would like to put their name forward to be involved as new Minister of the Word, of Communion, to the Sick, or as Welcomers. New rosters will be drawn up next week. Please advise the parish office if you wish to make changes. As a parish, we pray with gratitude for the many people and the many gifts that build up the Body of Christ in Box Hill.

POINTS TO PONDER

- ★ *'Physician, heal yourself.' Are there things within you that need healing?*
- ★ *'He won the approval of all.' When have you won the approval of others? How did you respond?*

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.