



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time January 30th, 2011—Year A

LAST WORDS

I arrived here in May 2002 as a young priest of 33 years of age with less than 3 years experience, into parish ministry. If I knew what was involved I might have said "No". I am too busy to think or feel at the moment; hopefully in the next few months I'll spend time reflecting and praying on my ministry here.

You have watched me grow, mature and change in the past nine years. I am convinced we cannot grow as a Christian unless we are part of a faith community. Our Lord himself gave us a wonderful example of family life and later with his disciples and friends. When we are able to share our faith, we bond spiritually. There is something special about friends with whom we can share our faith. Our Lord promised a hundred fold to those who leave everything to follow him; I have experienced that in my time here, in terms of your generosity, hospitality, welcome, families, and friends. I am still receiving thank you cards wishing me well, your affirmation and support over the years has been magnanimous. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve you as Parish Priest, you are a terrific flock. You are life giving communities, ready to reach out and Christ centred. I seek your forgiveness too, if I have offended you in any way, or failed to be a pastor to you in time of need. Surely you are aware of my limitations and weakness too! My last words to you

"Always enjoy God".

Fr Anthony ofm

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When all is said and done, everything really depends on how we regard God, or don't regard him.

The paradox we face is, on the one hand, the gulf between us and God, and, on the other hand, the closeness with us that God wants. There is a sense in which we relate to God from the abyss of our own nothingness. It is not wrong for a person to feel bored and unimpressed by God.

Feelings are neither right nor wrong; they take on a morality only when we act on them. But for a person of faith to go on feeling unimpressed by God, and do nothing about it, is disgraceful and unpardonable. Why should God be the victim of the way we are feeling?

There are any number of things we can do to keep alive our wonder and reverence for God and to resist the feeling of boredom with God. The universe and everything created by God should blow your mind and heart! Perhaps you haven't thought about it very much. Have you ever really seen the sun rise?

Blessed Cardinal Newman had the practice of going out on a clear night and gazing at the stars, and of seeing each separate star he looked at in the heavens as an attribute of God: His omnipotence, justice, eternity, simplicity, immensity, tranquillity – only some of the attributes of our wonderful, infinite God.

Cardinal Newman would have known that the entire solar system (including our tiny planet earth) is part of a galaxy containing more than 100 billion stars, and this galaxy is just a speck in the universe because the universe contains 100 billion other galaxies, each comprising on the average 100 billion stars: size is amazing, e.g., planet earth could be packed into the sun 1,300,000 times. It is, in fact, a common opinion of scientists that the universe is infinite as God is, and they tell us that the number of stars in the heavens is like the number of grains of sand on all the seashores of the world! God is supremely impressive. He deserves not to be cut down to size, and to be given VIP treatment.

*Fr Ben ofm*

### FOR ALL MASSES OTHER THAN 10.30AM

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

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

#### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and be glad; Your reward will be great in heaven. 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.

### Parish of St Francis Xavier

1087 Whitehorse Road  
Box Hill 3128

Telephone 9890 2231

Facsimile 9898 4392

email: [sfxbh@celestial.com.au](mailto:sfxbh@celestial.com.au)

[www.scsfx.org.au](http://www.scsfx.org.au)

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

Telephone 9898 5080

email: [sfxbh@celestial.com.au](mailto:sfxbh@celestial.com.au)

This newsletter is also available on our website: [www.scsfx.org.au](http://www.scsfx.org.au)

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13

*In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.*

1 Cor 1:26-31

*God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.*

Mt 5:1-12

*Happy are the poor in spirit.*

Monday—St John Bosco

Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday—Presentation of the Lord—Mal 3:1-4;

Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40

Thursday

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13

Friday

Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday—St Agatha

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

### NEXT SUNDAY

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 58:7-10;

1 Cor 2:1-5;

Mt 5:13-16

## FRIARS OF THE PARISHES

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

**Pastoral Assistant—**

## 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

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Pat Cleary        | Annie Setiawan |
| Breta Cohen       | Dianna Hardy   |
| Ann-Marie Diggins | Carmel Purdey  |
| Jane D'Souza      | Monique Waring |
| Anthony Kennedy   | (ex-officio)   |
| Peter Leonard     |                |

**Next meeting : 10 February 2011**

## LITURGY TIMES

### St Clare's

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>             | <b>9.00am</b>     |
| <b>Weekdays:</b>          |                   |
| <b>Wed, Fri &amp; Sat</b> | <b>9.00 am</b>    |
| <b>Confessions Sat</b>    | <b>9.30—10 am</b> |

### St Francis Xavier's

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Saturday Vigil</b> | <b>6.00 pm</b>  |
| <b>Sunday</b>         | <b>8.00 am</b>  |
|                       | <b>10.00am</b>  |
| <b>(Italian)</b>      | <b>11.30 am</b> |
|                       | <b>5.00 pm</b>  |

**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

## THANK YOU!

ON BEHALF OF ALL FRIARS & PARISHIONERS, FR ANTHONI WOULD LIKE TO THANK **EDDIE VAN DER WESTHUIZEN** FOR HIS VERY MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE FRIARS AND PARISH. WE WISH EDDIE ALL THE VERY BEST FOR HIS RETIREMENT.

A HUGE THANK YOU AS WELL TO ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND. FR ANTHONI & FR BEN APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR GENEROSITY OF TIME & SPIRIT IN MAKING TODAY TRULY MEMORABLE & A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION!

## FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER

**COMMUNITY** Meetings held at St Clare's Parish Hall, enter from Killara Sr car park. Mondays during school term, 10.30am to 12 noon. Praise & Worship, Scripture, reflection, teaching. Followed by Fellowship & Refreshments. MEETINGS RESUME **MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY**. ALL WELCOME. Information Olive 9878 4103, Therese 9878 3706.

## SFX PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup will meet on FRIDAY MORNINGS this year from 9am –11am in the Old School Library at SFX (next to church). Playgroup will resume on Friday 4th February. Children 0 to school age welcome. Contact: Bridget 0408 549 392.

## 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.**

## ROSTERS

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

## ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

### Altar Linen

January 30 M Cahill  
February 6 W Tan

### Counters

January 30 B&M Walker  
February 6 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

### Collectors 5pm

January 30  
February 6

### Rosary Statue

Month of January—N Guinane, 63 Mersey St, BHN  
February 6—M Soulsby, 7 Simpsons Rd, BH

### ITALIAN MASS

#### Commentator

February 6 R Bidinost

#### Lettori

February 6 V Peluso, M Salamone

#### Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 6 G Tabacchiera, D Amato

### ST CLARE'S—February 6

#### Ministers of the Word

9.00am—M Hardy, K McMahon, C Hardy

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am—D Hardy, P Wolbers, D Wolbers, E Lim, P Cleary, J Murphy, I D'Amato

#### Piety Stall

9.00am A Lindsey

## ST CLARE'S PIETY STALL

St Mary MacKillop medals are available for \$1 each.

## WALKING GROUP & MEDITATION GROUP

are both now in recess & will resume tba.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- ✦ *Who do you know who is 'poor in spirit', 'gentle', a 'peacemaker', 'merciful', 'pure in heart'.....*
- ✦ *Pray for those people this week.*

Come to the Chinese Lunar New Year festival at St. Francis Xavier Hall

After 6pm mass, Saturday February 5

1. Blessing of Oranges

2. Social Meal - Please bring salad or sweets

Drinks available.



兔年  
Chinese Zodiac 2011  
Year of the Rabbit