



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1st, 2009—Year B

**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

If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. 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.

This week

Jesus challenged the evil which oppressed people in his time. This week, speak out, publicly or privately, against oppression or an evil in our world. Become part of lifting the burden from others.

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.

The Lord Our Teacher

We take teaching as simply the passing on of knowledge from one person to another. Even schools nowadays prefer to use the word learning rather than teaching, emphasising students gaining knowledge rather than being taught, where the teaching is distinguished from the teacher. But in the spiritual and moral world that is not possible or advisable, because the teaching and the teacher are somewhat related. Immoral behaviour on the part of the teacher can cause resistance from those being taught and the information to be doubted. So in the realm of spirituality, the spiritual teacher is to live a good moral life. This is reflected in our Christian tradition and in the life of the saints and spiritual masters, which give credibility to their teaching.

I am reflecting on my journey so far and trying to make meaning of the different experiences in my life. Hopefully by evaluating it in the light of the gospel, I can put in place some mechanism that will facilitate life-giving changes and which will aid in my growth as a person, as a Christian and as a Franciscan. I know it would not be possible without the support, guidance and help of others. In my formative years my family and teachers played a big part, and later friends and colleagues at work. Now this faith community which consists of friars and parishioners continues to challenge me, support me and help me on my Christian journey.

Prayer is vital and knowledge is important but only others can make it authentic or true. Christianity depends on us for the passing on of our faith and its teachings. Monasteries and religious communities exist for this and history tells us how the Church developed over many years after the death of Jesus. God revealed himself to us through his Son Jesus who took human form. Scripture, God's word written in human language must be interpreted by humans. For us Jesus Christ is teacher and master of our life and the gospels have a special place in our lives.

Next week we have a parish mission and this is a great opportunity for us to learn how to meditate and to use the resources in our life given by God for our well being. If you would like more information please visit Fr Justin's website.

www.frjustin-hermitage.org

Fr Anthoni ofm

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www.scsfx.org.au

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www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au

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138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone/Fax 9898 5080
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deut 18:15-20

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

1 Cor 7:32-35

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

Mk 1:21-28

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Monday—

Presentation of the Lord

Mal3:1-4; Heb2:14-18; Lk2:22-40

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday—St Agatha

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

Friday—

St Paul Miki & Companions

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

Saturday

Heb13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34

NEXT SUNDAY 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19,
22-23; Mk 1:29-39

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 : 4 February 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 1 FEBRUARY 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12.30PM	MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 2 BAPTISMS AT ST SFX
MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY 8.30AM PRESENTATION OF THE LORD 10.00AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706
TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 8.30AM 7.30PM 7.30PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS BAPTISM PROGRAM
THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 1.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—TEN PIN BOWLING AT FOREST HILL. 2PM START. BOOKINGS: IMELDA 9841 9310
FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY	
SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 8.30AM PARISH MISSION BEGINS	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome! SUNDAY 8TH—THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	PARISH MISSION UNTIL THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Thursday February 5 - tenpin bowling - one game, hire of shoes and afternoon tea costs \$10.00. (\$3.00 for afternoon tea only - you are welcome to come and watch). You need to book with Imelda - 9841 9310.

Thursday 19 February, Martin Hardy will speak to us about his Churchill Fellowship overseas trip. Get a copy of our programme, so you know what is on each week (at the back of the church - or at the meeting on Jan.29. All parishioners - and their friends - are welcome at any of our activities. Inquiries -Judy - 9878 4212.

Thank you to all parishioners who completed the **Christmas Gift** sheets during Advent. Those who have offered their services for ministries or activities will be contacted in the next couple of weeks. Those who have re-committed will be scheduled as new rosters are prepared. If you still have a form at home, please return it at Mass or to the Parish House. If you overlooked the forms, we are always happy to hear from anyone who would like to actively participate in any parish ministry. We are blessed by your faithful generosity and give thanks to you all for the gifts you are sharing in our community.

Liz Clark

PARISH MISSION

Any parishioners able to provide a lift to the Parish Mission sessions for fellow parishioners are asked to contact the Parish Office. If you are aware of someone living close to you who may require a lift, consider making the offer. If you require a lift please also contact the Parish Office and we will put you in touch with someone close by. The sessions are 6pm Sunday 8th February, following 5pm Mass, & 7.30pm Monday 9th—Thursday 12th February. **PLEASE NOTE SUNDAY'S TIME HAS CHANGED TO 6PM. PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.**

TEA TOWELS

If anyone has taken home tea towels or aprons from the tuckshop to wash, would they please return them to the tuckshop or the parish office as soon as possible.

R.C.I.A

Did you know that RCIA is considered to be a whole parish activity? By this it's meant that each person in our community has a part to play in the journey that our catechumens are taking as they learn and grow in faith, and make preparations for their Baptism at Easter. We all should remember that the long months of planning involve not merely our team members, but that there is a need for your support—in prayer, in encouragement, and especially in the example we give as faithful Christians—in the ways we reach out to others, we offer forgiveness and healing, we celebrate, we are inclusive, we share and live the Good News. Please keep Diana, Olivia and Garry in your prayers as they learn and discern and grow in their faith.

I know we are just getting back to normal, but already it is time to think about Lent/Easter, and forming reflection groups for the **Lenten programs**. Please prayerfully consider participating. Application forms will be included in the newsletter during the next few weeks.

Liz Clark

ST VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Volunteers are required to help out at the Mont Albert shop located in Hamilton St, Mont Albert. Further information is available from the Manager, Geraldine Grimmett at the shop on 9898 0720. Any help would be much appreciated.

Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation
Getting it Rite For Lent & Easter!
 Preparation of parish liturgy.
 Saturday 7 February; 9.15am - 3.30pm
 See notice board for details or ring 9412 3325
www.evangelisation.org
 To download the poster and registration form
 from our website, please click on the link
 below:
[http://www.evangelisation.org/media/
 gettingitrite-webpromo.pdf](http://www.evangelisation.org/media/gettingitrite-webpromo.pdf)

My corner

I'm not sure whether it is the weather that has fired me up, or quite where this hot rush of anger has come from. On Tuesday morning when I came to work, I looked out of my car window and thought that something looked a bit different. After a quick scan, I realized that during the night someone had come past the Parish House and snapped off the two beautiful standard roses that flank the entrance path. One rose was the magnificent Peace rose, the other a wonderful glowing apricot-coloured rose that always makes me think of sunset and summer fruits and soft baby skin.

Here they both were, hacked off at ground level. They were quite solid bushes, so it must have involved quite some effort. I could have wept, and they're not even mine. They hadn't been looking their best, but roses are so faithful and always come good again. How could someone be so uncaring, so mindless, so malicious? I totally fail to understand what sort of satisfaction anyone could receive from such a senseless act of vandalism. I most uncharitably hoped that they had been pierced by the thorns while they did their dirty work.

When I looked up the thesaurus after typing in the word 'vandal' I came up with an amazing list of descriptions—thug, hooligan, ruffian, delinquent, gangster, brute, hoodlum, lout, hood, criminal, crook, beast, monster, yob, oaf. And the adjectives were just as colourful—felonious, aberrant, offending, illicit, immoral, unlawful, anti-social. There, I feel better already! This isn't the first act of vandalism around the parish property. We have had windows broken including the church stained-glass window which was kicked in last year. The copper piping from the gutters and down pipes around the church has all been stolen. Letters on the boards advertising Mass times have been obliterated or removed. The solar garden lamps were stolen. Pot plants have magically disappeared.

Last year the roof of the school was extensively graffitied and continually we find other patches of scrawl and scribble on playground equipment, walls, concrete. There is an epidemic! I have no idea why I feel the need to share all this with you, but this is your parish and this is your property. Can we do anything about it?

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Fr Anthoni would like to thank all parishioners for helping to make his 40th birthday celebration such a special day. Thank you for your presence, your gifts and your contributions to the shared brunch. A special thank you also to the Social Committee for their work in organising the day.

Father would also like to thank parishioners for celebrating on two successive weekends with the Lunar New Year/Australia Day the following weekend. Thank you to Fr Bob and his organising team for another great day.

Mark's Gospel

'Mark, the shortest of the Gospels, contains the most vivid and human portrayal of Jesus. He expresses deep emotions (which Matthew and Luke often omit): compassion, strong displeasure, surprise at disbelief, deep sighs, indignation and ignorance of when history will end. Jesus is a powerful and mysterious presence whose actions constantly elicit wonder and surprise and evoke questions such as "Who is this?" (4:41).

'The narrative style harmonizes with the picture of Jesus—rapid scene changes with Jesus on the move, surrounded by crowds, announcing and enacting God's reign, narrated in short, staccato sentences with constant use of the connective, "immediately."
Excerpt from a homily by Fr John Donahue SJ

'The gospel reading shows us Mark's skill as a narrator – capturing so much with a few words.

'Capernaum, the hometown of Simon Peter, was to become the headquarters of Jesus' Galilean ministry. That Jesus regularly took part in the worship of the synagogue had great significance. He had no intention of setting aside the authentic traditions of old Israel; he came to renew them and bring the realisation of all that they foreshadowed. In doing this he identified with the role of Israel's prophets, as expressed in the first reading from Deuteronomy - a text looked upon as messianic in the time of Jesus.

'The people recognised that the teaching of the scribes – with their repetitious appeal to the authority of other interpreters of the Law – contrasted with the teaching of Jesus. In the tradition of the prophets, his teaching had a ring of authority, as it gave expression to Jesus' own convictions. Already there is intimated a contrast and conflict that is to shape the career of the Saviour.'
Excerpt from a homily by Fr John Thornhill SM
<http://www.theemmausseries.com>

ROSTERS ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

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

Altar Linen

February 1 H Emery
 February 8 C Pollocks

Counters

February 1 M Rossely, J Butler
 February 8 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

Collectors 5pm

February 1 L Soulsby
 February 8 I Mahlstedt

Rosary Statue

February 1—T&I Mahlstedt, 3/18 Thames St
 February 8—M Charles, 4/97 Hawthorn Rd, FH

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

February 1 R Bidinost
 February 8 J Adamo

Lettori

February 1 L Ferola, S Faulisi
 February 8 G Amato, C Gibillini

Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 1 C Chessari, M Salamone
 February 8 G Tabacchiera, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—FEBRUARY 8

Ministers of the Word

9.00am T Nicholson, A McGovern, M Farry

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

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

Piety Stall—February 8

9.00am B Murphy

From Fr Ben

Husband & wife are quietly relaxing, reading different parts of the newspaper. Wife: Dear, what makes the stock market go up & down? Husband (lowering paper & thinking for a while): International imbalance, political tensions, inflationary pressures, fiscal instability. Slight, silent pause. Wife: If you don't know, dear, why don't you just say so?

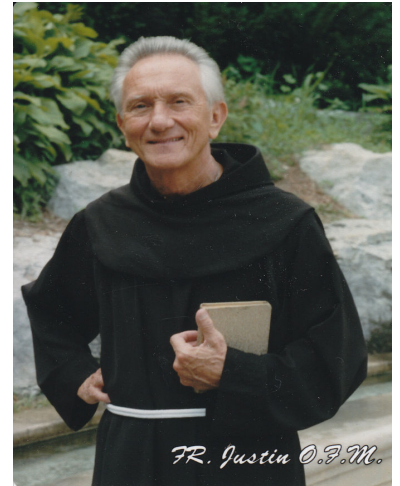
Ministers to the Sick call on families during the week. If you or someone in your family is unable to come to Mass, please let us know at the office and we can arrange for a Minister to visit you at home.

YEAR OF ST PAUL
 ".....that you give your undivided attention to the Lord."

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.

Parish Mission

Conducted by
Friar Justin Belitz, O.F.M



*“Life is not a place of arrival;
it is a manner of traveling”*

Homily at all Masses on
Saturday 7th February (6pm)
Sunday 8th February (8am, 10am, 5pm)

Five evening retreat services
Sunday 8th – 6pm
following the 5pm Mass
Monday 9th—Thursday 12th February
(7:30 – 8.30pm)

Venue: St Francis Xavier Church

- ✦ **Prayer**
- ✦ **Meditation**
- ✦ **Benediction**