



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

4th Sunday of Easter May 3rd, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm Response

The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Good Shepherd is risen! He who laid down his life for his sheep, who died for his flock, he is risen, alleluia.

This week

*Who are the people who rely on
your care?
Extend that care in special ways
this week.*

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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

This year's theme is *Faith in the Divine Initiative-the Human responses*. In his message the Holy Father invites all people of God to reflect on this theme and to pray. The urgent call of the Lord stresses that prayer for vocations should be continuous and trusting. The Christian community can only really "have ever greater faith and hope in God's providence (Sacramentum Caritatis, 26) if it is enlivened by prayer"-Pope Benedict.

I believe there are two calls in my Christian life, call to life and call to service. Whatever vocation we choose the basic calls underpin everything in life. God gave us life to live, and the choices that we make in life help us to become alive. Health, family, friends, meaningful employment, interests - these are only some of the attributes that help us to live life to the fullest. I am sure you are able to add to this list.

Yet we are also aware that we live with others in this world and we are part of the bigger picture, God's plan. We are interdependent and we need others in life too. When we are able to move beyond ourselves and our needs we begin to experience love, and love is strong enough to motivate us to do things that sometimes don't make sense. I think Christian life or vocation is something like that too. We are blessed to have St Francis and St Clare as our models, man and woman who still appeal to our modern world; from environmentalists, musicians, writers and justice and peace activists who still look to them for inspiration through their symbolic life beyond their canonised status. Christian life is meant to help us embrace life fully and Jesus, the second person in the Trinity showed us how to live with disciples and others through the gospel.

We see the divine initiative and human response so clearly in the life of St Francis and St Clare and many others too. Never be discouraged with lack of numbers but let us always live our Christian life with passion. Our vocation is to keep responding to God who is life.

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 OF EASTER

Acts 4: 8-12

*This is the only named by which
we can be saved.*

1 Jn 3:1-2

We shall see God as he is.

Jn 10:11-18

*A good shepherd lays down his
life for his sheep.*

Monday

Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday

Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday

Acts 12:24 - 13:5; Jn 12:44-50

Thursday

Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

Friday

Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

Saturday

Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14

NEXT SUNDAY

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 9:26-31

1 Jn 3:18-24

Jn 15:1-8

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 : 7 May 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 3 MAY 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	11.00AM 12.30PM 2.30PM	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA SFX SCHOOL TOUR FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS BAPTISMS AT SFX CONFIRMATION AT SFX
MONDAY 4 MAY	8.30AM 10.30AM 4.00PM	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 CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
TUESDAY 5 MAY	12.45PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX
WEDNESDAY 6 MAY	8.30AM 9AM-11AM 7.30PM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 OR TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252 MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS
THURSDAY 7 MAY	1.15PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—SFX Parish House, at 1.15, for an afternoon of watching videos and chat. See below. PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 8 MAY	5.00PM-6.30PM 7.30PM-9.00PM	LADIES DRINKS AT THE BLACKBURN HOTEL BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP IN SFX PHMR
SATURDAY 9 MAY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE. ALL WELCOME.
SUNDAY 10 MAY 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	12.30PM	BAPTISM AT SFX

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB BUS TRIP

This week at Autumn Friendship Club, we are "At Home" in the meeting room at the Parish House, at 1.15, for an afternoon of watching videos and chat. For those who attend the noon mass, the room will be available for eating lunch
Next week, Val Mooney, a parishioner, will tell us about her recent trip to East Timor. We have several items to raffle, so we can contribute to the Parish fund for East Timor.

On May 21, we are having a "Biggest Luncheon" to support the Cancer Council. Bring a plate of food to share.

CATECHETIC CLASSES CONTINUE.....

Mondays during term time at 4pm at St Clare's.

The Floral Art Society of Victoria presents CHURCH DESIGNS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Thursday 28 May at the Nunawading Uniting Church, cnr Whitehorse Rd & O'Shannessy St, Nunawading (Melway 48:G9). Doors open 10am. Cost: \$20. Morning Tea—demonstration at 10.30am. **BOOKINGS:** Janet Alesich 9894 4131. If any parishioner is interested in attending this demonstration, the parish will pay the attendance fee.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Derek & Phyllis Wolbers on their 40th Wedding Anniversary on the 9th May 2009.



CLEANING

Reliable honest lady to do house & office cleaning, available Monday to Saturday. Excellent references supplied. Contact Frances on 9894 7893.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WISHED FOR A CANARY?

One male canary & cage to give away free. Phone: 9898 8178

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE FOUR WEEKENDS OF MAY, BEGINNING TODAY AT BOTH PARISHES.

Collectors please note!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE 52 CANDIDATES WHO ARE TO RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION TODAY, SUNDAY 3 MAY AT 2.30PM AT SFX CHURCH.

PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP

On Sunday May 17th at 11.15am there will be a screening of a DVD on Blessed Mary in SFX Parish Hall. Some preparatory information for the **WALKING PILGRIMAGE** on Sunday 14th June will be available.

Please also mark in your diaries that there is a proposed pilgrimage to Sydney in August of this year. Definite dates for August will be available soon. **Expressions of interest are welcomed to the Parish Office 9890 2231/ 9898 5080.**

UPDATE: CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITABLE FUND—Bushfire Appeal

Number of parishes that have contributed: 201
Contributed by parishes: \$876,530
Contributed by other donors: \$2,242,970
Total funds raised to date: \$3,306,500
(24 April 2009)

An on-line subscription facility to the Recovery newsletter is now available on the archdiocesan website. The on-line subscription facility can be found by following the links from the home page of the website: www.melbourne.catholic.org.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISHES—SUNDAY MAY 24 AT 12.30PM IN SFX HALL

REPRESENTATIVES FROM PARISH GROUPS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND IN THE HALL FROM 11AM ONWARDS PRIOR TO THE AGM TO MEET INDIVIDUALLY WITH PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL.

GROUPS ARE ALSO INVITED TO SUBMIT BRIEF REPORTS TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY **WEDNESDAY 6 MAY** FOR INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL REPORT.

A brief summary of the past year's activities preferably by email would be appreciated.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

2010 Prep Enrolments will open Friday 1st May for Baptised Catholic children who turn 5 years of age by 30th April 2010. Enrolments close Friday 12th June 2009. Enrolment forms can be obtained from School Office. (Phone: 9890 1108 Hours: 8.30am-4pm Monday-Friday during school terms). **SCHOOL TOURS** at 9.15am (for approx 1 hour) on Mondays, 4th May, 1st June, 20th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 12th October. **ALSO, 11AM TODAY**

My corner

Listening to the radio early one morning this week, I heard the commentator say that someone had died & had gone to meet the Great Perhaps. I kept thinking about it all day, realizing how much more comfortable & assuring it is to have faith in a God who loves me, rather than having an eternal question about whether life is all about anything or not. My thoughts wandered on to the question of faith—one that we have frequently discussed in RCIA in recent months, & one that continues to challenge me. I have watched with great excitement & hope as the catechumens learnt & questioned & grew more & more certain in their faith over the past 6 months or so. Last Sunday at Mass, I was strongly aware of the faith of so many good people—despite the fact that it was very cold, wet, miserable, the faithful gathered, faithfully, to give to praise to God, to bring their hopes & joy & pains & doubts. They gather each week (or each day), committed, staunch, certain of God's part in their lives. I was immensely proud of our young people who are to be confirmed this week. When Mgr Tomlinson came to talk to them, they were so open, so confident, so proud of their faith, & I felt reassured about the future, different though it will be. Continually as I visit homes in the parish, I see the faith that keeps our sick & elderly faithful to their marriage vows to love, & honour each other, in the best & the most difficult of times. I see people of faith teaching their children about justice & goodness, others committed to works of charity, be it fundraising for the school or time at the Op Shop, or faithful attendance at meetings that seem boring, but have an important part to play in bringing about change for the better in our society. We have the best of examples of faithful service in the gospel story today of the Good Shepherd, & each day within our own parish, our friars give amazing example of how to faithfully care for their flock. Faith is a gift from God which is very evident within this community.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY IN TODAY'S WORLD

In a world where human beings are at war with themselves and with nature, we are in need of a spirituality that will guide us in our many varied relationships, that will give us heart and open us to the very heart of God and a more deeply human future. As the Franciscan Tradition celebrates 800 years since its origins, come and celebrate with us as Sr. Iliia Delio OSF, opens up this tradition for us in these early days of a new century.

Saturday 16 May:

'Christian Life in an Evolutionary Universe'—10am at Yarra Theological Union, Albion Rd, Box Hill

& 'What does it mean to live the Gospel in the 21st Century?'—1.30pm at Yarra Theological Union, as above.

A VOCATION VIEW: This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs worthy leaders, Good Shepherds of the 21st Century, caring unselfishly for the needs of God's people.

Please, pray for Vocations.

In today's Gospel, the Evangelist records that Jesus said that he had received "a command" given by the Father, that he "lay down his life" of his "own free will". This is what God asks of men he calls to be priests in His Church that they willingly lay down their lives in imitation of the Good Shepherd. Please pray especially today for priests and seminarians and those considering a vocation to the priesthood.

Prayer for Vocations for Families

We thank you, Lord Jesus, you who, in becoming man, chose to belong to a human family, teach families the virtues which filled with light the family home of Nazareth. May families always be united, as you and the Father are one, and may they be living witnesses to love, justice and solidarity; make them schools of respect, forgiveness and mutual help, so that the world may believe. Help them to be sources of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, and all forms of firm Christian commitment. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

From Pope John Paul II's encyclical letter Ecclesia de Eucharistia.



www.fta.org.au
www.oxfam.org.au

From Fr Ben

Life has to change & grow if it is to remain life, conserving what we have is important, but what we have is best conserved if it is living, in light & fresh air, not in darkness & stale inflexibility. (Bishop John Heaps)

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MAY 10

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm R&P Cussen, M O'Brien, A Leonard, L Lampard
8.00am F Neyland, S Carney
10.00am M Blundy, V&G Mooney, M Sinclair, M Chan, K de Lacy, E Kimmet

5.00pm L Soulsby

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Slevison, S Hengeveld
8.00am C Gately
10.00am M Hughes, L Hughes
5.00pm T Parker, M Soulsby

Welcomers

6.00pm T Chia, D&M Williamsz
10.00am V&B Burns

Children's Liturgy

May 10—5th Sunday of Easter B—Group B
May 24—Ascension—Group C

Altar Linen

May 3 C Chessari
May 10 P Fitzgerald

Counters

May 3 P Eng & H H Yeoh
May 10 P McLaughlin, G Kitch

Collectors 5pm

May 3 L Soulsby
May 10 I Mahlstedt

Rosary Statue

May 3—G Rae, 9 Derwent St, BHN
May 10—V&B Burns, 2/11 Loddon St, BHN
Morning Tea (after 10am Mass at SFX)
May 3 Esmé VDW, R Bastianpillai
May 10 V Bellis, P Linden

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

May 3 J Adamo
May 10 P Grech

Lettori

May 3 G Tabacchiera, G Amato
May 10 A Lanza, L Ferola

Ministri dell'Eucarista

May 3 M Casamento, R Bidnost
May 10 M Salamone, D Amato

ST CLARE'S—MAY 10

Ministers of the Word

9.00am M Clark, K McDonald, N Farry
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
9.00am P Cleary, J Murphy, D Wolbers, D Tan, P O'Brien, A McGovern, P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—May 10

9.00am Glass family

POINTS TO PONDER

"Friendship's the wine of life"

YEAR OF ST PAUL 2 COR 8:7

You always have the most of everything – of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause, and the biggest share of our affection – so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy.

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.