



# Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the  
Franciscan Friars*

## 4th Sunday of Lent March 22nd, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

### Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her,  
you who love her; rejoice with her, you  
who mourned for her, and you will find  
contentment at her consoling breasts.

### Psalm Response

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever  
forget you!

### Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ! God loved the world so much,  
he gave us his only Son, that all who  
believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus  
Christ!

### Communion Antiphon

To Jerusalem, that binds them  
together in unity, the tribes of the Lord  
go up to give him praise.

### **This week**

*Light a candle each night this week  
as you pray. Proclaim God's truth &  
act for the light this week.*

**This newsletter also available  
at: [www.scsfx.org.au](http://www.scsfx.org.au)**

### **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.

## WE ARE GOD'S WORK OF ART

It's a lifelong challenge for everyone  
to understand and believe Paul's  
description of us in today's second  
reading as 'God's work of art.'  
Nonetheless, it is absolutely true. If we  
look at a work of art, we always see  
something of the artist in it. We  
always leave part of ourselves in what  
we create and that is fundamentally  
true about God too. In Leonardo Da  
Vinci's words, the painter always paints  
himself.

Such is the richness of 'grace' in our  
lives that Paul mentions it three times  
in this excerpt from his letter to the  
Ephesians today. What is it? Prior to  
Vatican II many thought of it as an  
injection of some mysterious divine  
substance each time we received the  
Sacraments. The Sacraments were like  
a spiritual syringe. Following the  
Council, the Church enabled us to see  
grace as the quality of our relationship  
with God emerging in the world  
around us. Quite simply, we came to  
view grace as God's love at work in  
our ordinary day to day world.

We came to understand that God's  
grace had always been present in  
people's lives a long time ahead of  
preaching and teaching. Indeed, far  
from bringing grace to people, we  
now acknowledge it as our task to  
help awaken them to the reality of  
grace already present within them.

*Chris Gleeson SJ*

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**SFX Primary School** 9890 1108  
[www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au)

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**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**Scrutinies—9am Mass @ SC**  
**1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13;**  
**Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41**

**2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23**  
*The wrath & the mercy of the  
Lord are revealed in the exile &  
liberation of his people.*  
**Eph 2:4-10**  
*When we were dead through sins,  
he brought us to life.*  
**Jn 3:14-21**  
*God sent his Son into the world  
that we might be saved through  
him.*

**Monday**  
Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday**  
Ezek 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-3, 5-16

**Wednesday—ANNUNCIATION**  
Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10;  
Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday**  
Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday**  
Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday**  
Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-52

**NEXT SUNDAY**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9;  
Jn 12:20-33

**The following Year A Mass  
will be used at the 10am Mass  
at SFX: Ezek 37:12-14;  
Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45**

## 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 : 2 April 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

<b>SUNDAY 22 MARCH</b> 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT		<b>WORLD WATER DAY</b> <b>SCRUTINIES AT 9AM MASS AT ST CLARE'S</b> <b>MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA</b> <b>3 BAPTISMS AT SFX</b>
<b>MONDAY 23 MARCH</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>  <b>10.00AM</b>  <b>7.00PM</b>	<b>SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX</b> (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. <b>FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706</b> <b>CONFIRMATION CLASS AT SFX PHMR</b>
<b>TUESDAY 24 MARCH</b>	<b>12.45PM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY @ SFX</b> <b>RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH</b> <b>ANNUNCIATION</b> <b>OF THE LORD</b>	<b>8.30AM</b> <b>9AM-11AM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)</b> <b>PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481</b> <b>MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME</b>
<b>THURSDAY 26 MARCH</b>	<b>1.15PM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—BINGO IN SFX HALL</b> <b>MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME</b>
<b>FRIDAY 27 MARCH</b>	<b>4.00PM</b> <b>7.30PM</b> <b>8.00PM-9.00PM</b>	<b>CHOIR PRACTICE IN SFX CHURCH—ALL WELCOME</b> <b>STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN BOTH CHURCHES</b> <b>BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE AFTER THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT.</b>
<b>SATURDAY 28 MARCH</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>	<b>PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House.</b> All welcome!
<b>SUNDAY 29 MARCH</b> 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT		<b>SCRUTINIES AT 10AM MASS AT SFX</b> <b>1 BAPTISM AT SFX</b>

## AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Autumn Friendship Club will meet in the hall, at 1.15, on Thursday, for Bingo. The following Thursday, April 2, will be our last meeting for the term – we will attend the Noon Mass, which will include anointing of the sick and then have lunch at the Bus Stop Café (next to the bus stop at Centro, Box Hill). There will be a three-course lunch – cost, \$10. Bookings – Marg – 9803 4973.

We are about to plan our programme for next term, so if you have any suggestions of activities or speakers who might be prepared to speak to a small group, please let us know. If there are any parishioners who are involved in activities or with organisations which they would feel like telling us about, please ring Judy – 9878 4212.

The **LIFE WALK**, to raise funds for Right to Life Pregnancy Counselling, will this year start from Hamilton, on Easter Tuesday, April 14 and end in Melbourne on Sunday, April 19. You can walk for one day or several or just for a few hours. Inquiries 9387 7098.

## TIME TO JOIN

Young people in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are being encouraged to keep alive the spirit of World Youth Day (WYD08) and Days in the Dioceses (DID08). To assist this process, Archbishop Denis Hart announced a new Archdiocesan Office for Youth (AOY) which aims to provide young people with opportunities to further their spiritual development. The AOY website offers numerous resources for youth groups, including an online calendar for schools, parishes and communities to post their events. To cap off a highly successful 2008, a special time capsule with DID08 and WYD08 memorabilia from Melbourne pilgrims was placed in the gardens of the Cardinal Knox Centre near St Patrick's Cathedral. The website can be accessed at: [www.aoy.org.au](http://www.aoy.org.au)

**NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AT BOTH CHURCHES THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE COLLECT YOURS & SAVE POSTAGE COSTS TO THE PARISH!**

## PRAYER OF WATER

*"Praised be You my Lord for Sister Water who is useful, humble, precious and pure."*

*As St. Francis prayed in great gratitude for Sister Water, we pray in thankfulness for her life sustaining generosity.*

*Oh, water, in your mysterious beauty you cause the desert to bloom. One tiny drop spread collected with thousands of drops waters seeds and future harvests to feed us and all creatures. One tiny drop multiplied quenches our burning thirst.*

*Our bodies, like the body of earth, are over 75% water. We are a water people. We are a water planet.*

*Oh compassionate God, Creator who breathed over the waters, we seek forgiveness for our mindless use of water. We beg for wisdom to know how to conserve and cherish water. We ask healing for the ways that we disrespect and contaminate our sister. In this drought time we wait and watch for the gift of rain upon earth. We watch and wait for the rain of grace into our souls. Come free us from hatred, greed, fear, and our lack of love for your gifts upon earth.*

*Transform us into living streams of water flowing green and moist with life, hope and love for earth and all peoples. AMEN*

## **EARTH HOUR Saturday March 28**

Earth Hour 2009 is a global call to action to every individual, every business & every community. It is a call to stand up, to take responsibility & to get involved in working towards a sustainable future. Don't forget to **turn off your lights at 8.30pm on Saturday** for one hour.

[www.earthhourau.org](http://www.earthhourau.org)

## RCIA

My name is Garry and I am blessed to be part of the Catholic family. I have always been a Christian, however after meeting some friendly Catholics, I soon realised parishioners who share the Catholic faith are a kind and gentle people. This became especially so when I attended the RCIA to experience a better understanding of this precious faith and found the spiritual bonds forming through loving discussion and prayer. I am grateful and thank you all very much for sharing your loving faith especially Liz, a kind teacher, Mike my sponsor, Faye and Frank who pray for me, Mary, Warren and Lisa, Carolyn, Clare, Diana, Olivia and Father Anthoni, Julie & Greg, Fr Bob & Fr Ben. You have restored my faith in God and given me confidence to be part of a new parish in Wendouree Ballarat.



## NEWS:

Fr Anthoni has recently visited John & Lorna Coen and congratulated them on behalf of the parish on their 65th wedding anniversary!

A funeral pall has been ordered for use at the church with the bequest from the late Mavis Arnolda RIP.

## House/flat/unit required.

Three sisters—all students—require a place (2 or 3 bedrooms) near public transport. Ring parish office 9890 2231 & leave a contact number.

## My corner

I was attracted to one of the advertised courses at Heart of Life—Art as Prayer—so decided to enrol. It suggested that the course would *allow the visual language of line, colour, shape, tone and texture to speak and help me recognise and accept the gifts of life of our Creator God.* I think that I am fairly observant, and know that often I find myself marvelling at the beauty of the world, the immensity of the night sky, the simplicity of a flower, the strong character of a mountain. I thought the course would be helpful in giving me a few prompts to be more observant and to continue to enjoy all that God has made. Then I discovered that I would have to do some drawing. This is definitely not my forte! As well, we had a session moulding clay, and my end result was significantly different from any one else's—it had its own strange form and character, and I was left wondering about its beauty. I am grateful to read in today's second reading—"we are God's work of art", but when I look at myself and other people I realise that I judge that everything God made isn't perfect, like my own artwork. I also read that an artist always puts a little of him/herself into what they make, and although I am left wondering about what's in my artworks, I am thrilled and inspired to be reminded that there is a little of God in me. It becomes a challenge to find that little bit and admire it.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

## PROJECT COMPASSION FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Care for God's creation has always been an important part of Christian tradition.



In this week's Project Compassion story we meet Ipau from South Kalimantan, Indonesia. Her Indigenous Meratus Dayak community has long struggled against the impacts of large scale forestry which causes damaging landslides and flooding. She is participating in a Caritas Australia supported advocacy program that supports vulnerable Indigenous communities to secure a just and sustainable future. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps Indigenous Indonesian communities protect their rights and forests for the benefit of us all.

## EAST TIMOR TRIP

On the 31st of March Fr. Paul Smith ofm (Franciscan Provincial), Sarah Menassa (JPIC), Mr. Bob Out (Principal of Padua College, Brisbane) Mr. Michael O'Brien (Vice Rector of the College) and Val Mooney (Box Hill Parishes' rep) are travelling to East Timor to meet with the Franciscan Communities, and visit their parishes. The purpose of the visit is to learn more about the Franciscan programs and parishes in East Timor, to strengthen relationships with them, and to improve communications.

While we are there we will have the opportunity to visit the Eco-Pastoral Project in Dotik, which our Parishes have been supporting, and meet with the local Friars. We will also visit the Weberek Primary School, which SFX Primary School and Parents and Friends' Association have been raising money for over the last four years. It will be great to be able to see the developments in person and to bring back first hand information to the Parishes in Australia. Once again we would like to thank everyone who have supported our fundraising efforts over the last twelve months. We raised over \$6000 with our 'Gatherings' and gift cards combined, and were able to send \$11000 to Sydney just after Christmas.

## CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITABLE FUND—Bushfire Appeal

- ★ Number of parishes that have contributed: 153
- ★ Amount contributed by parishes: \$ 632,213
- ★ Amount contributed by other donors: \$1,933,298
- ★ Total funds raised to date: \$2,565,511 (18/3/09)

[www.melbourne.catholic.org.au](http://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au)

## POINTS TO PONDER

Hospitality is **everyone's** ministry.

## ROSTERS

### ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MARCH 29

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm J&S Arcuri, M Chandler, E&A Fabian,  
8.00am J Reid, F Neyland  
10.00am F Fitzgerald, P&R Cussen, G Augustin, K Fazio, M Chan, M Mackay

5.00pm P Ruff

#### Ministers of the Word

6.00pm R Meyers, L Sanelli  
8.00am B Reid  
10.00am K de Lacy, AM Diggins  
5.00pm J O'Brien, M Waring

#### Welcomers

6.00pm B&M O'Shaughnessy  
10.00am P&F Fitzgerald

#### Children's Liturgy

#### Altar Linen

March 22 W Tan  
March 29 E Vogels

#### Counters

March 22 B&C Parsons  
March 29 P McGlin, P Madzarevic

#### Collectors 5pm

March 22 A Cutts  
March 29 L Soulsby

#### Rosary Statue

March 22—P Walker, 17/16 Bedford St  
March 29—SVD Nursing Home, 110 Albion Rd

#### ITALIAN MASS

#### Commentator

March 22 J Adamo  
March 29 P Grech

#### Lettori

March 22 A Basile  
March 29 L Ferola

#### Ministri dell'Eucarista

March 22 R Bidinost, C Chessari  
March 29 D Amato, G Tabacchiera

### ST CLARE'S—MARCH 29

#### Ministers of the Word

9.00am J Sakowski, D Hayes, P Sakowski

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am P O'Brien, A McGovern, J Easdown, P Ciccotosto, D Wolbers, H Keown, P Wolbers

#### Piety Stall—March 29

9.00am C Mirabella

## YEAR OF ST PAUL

*EPH 1:17 May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him.*

*From Fr Ben One teacher said to her colleague: "I caught Simmo cheating in the exam today". Her colleague replied: "Did you point out how his education suffers from that?" She said: "No. I pointed out what a useful skill he's developing for life in the outside world."*

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.