



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 7th, 2010—Year C

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord. Let us bow down in the presence of our maker, for he is the Lord our God.

Psalm Response

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Give praise to the Lord for his kindness, for his wonderful deeds toward men. He has filled the hungry with good things, he has satisfied the thirsty.



This week

Spend time each day reflecting on being 'caught up' in the net of Christ & what that means for you.

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.

Leave me Lord

Those of us who are involved in ministry and Church life know for sure that God always has something in mind for us to begin again. We finish with a project or a ministry in the hope it will be the end of our involvement or participation, but soon we feel called to serve in a different environment or to do something new for God. I know many of our parishioners who started with something very small, ended up with greater involvement. I am sure a few of our parishioners will be identifying with Peter in today's gospel passage: "Leave me Lord", hoping that God would stop calling them. The good news is God cares for his people and continues to call for co-builders and participants in the kingdom. To be a disciple is to be involved in matters of the kingdom, whether in Church or in the world we live in. We too receive the blessings and benefit from God's generosity and abundance.

Furthermore there is great satisfaction and freedom that comes with serving God.

Although we might feel inadequate, ill-prepared or not good enough to minister in the Lord's name, yet God calls us in our weaknesses. There is something humbling about this experience, we come to a wonderful realisation that it is the Lord who directs and calls people into action. God is the one who is actively signing us up for the kingdom-building through human agency. When we are approached it is God who is planting seeds in our hearts and minds. If we do accept the invitation and respond in the belief that God calls, we feel the liberating effect and experience great freedom.

Lent is approaching soon. This is a good time to think about our discipleship and Christian living. I hope we can all take some time in the coming week to set some goals and challenges for our spiritual growth and development. For me there is an additional challenge to think, pray and reflect as your pastor on the direction for the community. Where and what do you think God is calling us to? When we learn to die in Christ we also rise with Christ to a new life of abundance. "Do not be afraid": let these words of Jesus encourage us to go deeper into our faith journey.

Fr Anthoni ofm

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138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
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email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK
5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 6:1-8

Here am I! Send me.

1 Cor 15:1-11

I preach what they preach, and this is what you believe.

Lk 5:1-11

They left everything and followed him.

Monday

1 Kg 8:1-7,9-13; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday

1 Kg 8:22-23,27-30; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday—St Scholastica

1 Kg 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday

1 Kg 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30

Friday

1 Kg 11:29-32, 12:19; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday

1 Kg 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10

NEXT SUNDAY
6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jer 17:5-8

1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

Lk 6:17, 20-26

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 March 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 7 FEBRUARY		
MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY	8.30AM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP)
	10.30AM	FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY IN ST CLARE'S CHURCH. (OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706)
TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY	12.45PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)
	7.30PM	RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)
	7.30PM	MEDITATION GROUP—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY		WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK
	1.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—TEN PIN BOWLING (SEE BELOW)
FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY	9.15AM	BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MASS AT SFX
	5.00-6.30PM	LADIES DRINKS AT RSL, BOX HILL
SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP. MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE. ALL WELCOME!
SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY	11.00AM	LUNAR NEW YEAR/VALENTINE'S DAY MASS AT ST CLARE'S
WORLD MARRIAGE DAY		FOLLOWED BY LUNCH
	2.00PM	YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS PLANNING MEETING (SFX)

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This 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. Next week—1.30pm—Video afternoon at SFX Parish House

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.

REFURBISHMENT OF ST CLARE'S CHURCH

Father Anthoni is asking for expressions of interest from anyone interested in being part of a committee for planning for the refurbishment of St Clare's Church. Please advise the parish office if you are interested.

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 ↓↓↓

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

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. If you would like to be part of a group from Box Hill, ring Clare or Tom - 9890 4457

NOTICE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

St. Vincent de Paul Society
If you think you have items that you think are suitable for the needy (eg: good, clean clothing), please deliver them to an Opportunity Shop. The nearest SVDP Op-Shop is at 24 Hamilton Street, Mont Albert.

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.

CALL FOR YOUTH

We are looking for young people (Year 7 and up) to be involved in our Good Friday Stations of the Cross presentation. There will be a meeting for those available at 2pm on Sunday 14th February in SFX Parish House Meeting Room. If you are interested in being involved as a musician, reader, actor, dancer or anything else, please contact the Parish Office on 9890 2231.

TRAINING SESSION

On Saturday 27th February @10.30am in SFX Church, Fr Anthoni is conducting a training session for any adults interested in learning to set up the altar and to serve at Mass. This should mean that if required, people can step forward to help at Mass, confident that they know what to do.

SFX CHURCH

Parishioners are advised that stonemasons have carried out some repair-work to the stonework around some of the windows (interior & exterior) in the church this week.

My corner

Last year we had a week's camping holiday at Broome's Head on the northern New South Wales coast. One of the most memorable events of that trip was watching the mullet fishermen on the beach. Each morning when we got up, three or four men were already standing on the roofs of their trucks looking out to sea, hoping for a big catch of fish. Mullet roe is apparently extremely popular in some countries, so they were actually only catching the fish to export their eggs—mullet itself being considered rather ordinary eating. They sat watching and waiting for days. One afternoon there was a ripple of excitement, and even I could see the movement on top of the water as a large shoal of fish headed into our bay. A man jumped into his boat, and moved around the fish, letting out a huge net behind the seething mass. Then began the amazing work of opening up the net, pulling it in, hauling the fish, by hand, nearer and nearer to the shore. I'd never seen anything like this before. About six or seven men dealt with what seemed to me to be an enormous catch. They worked incredibly hard, as they sorted fish in to mullet and others, and immediately had the mullet into ice in big blue buckets marked "Sydney Fish Market." It struck me what enormous skill and patience these men required to do their job well. It also struck me that not only the ordinary, everyday mullet were pulled in, but all sorts of other familiar and strange creatures. Some of these were sent back for a new life, (by the watchers, not by the fishermen who were focused only on mullet); others remained scattered on the beach. So, too, the apostles—called to be fishers of people, to draw in all the people, the good and bad, the normal and the outcasts. They were to use the skills they already had as well as knowing Jesus' unconditional support. We too are challenged to reach out to all people, those we know, newcomers, strangers, the beautiful and the ugly, the blind and the lame, the friend, even the enemy. We too should have no fear in our hearts as we live as people who proclaim Jesus as the Lord of our lives.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School Office is open from 8.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday during school term. Tours of the School are held on the following dates. The tours are for approximately 1 hour. Please meet at the school office by 9.10am for Monday tours and 10.50am for Sunday tour. Mondays @ 9.15am—8 February, 1 March, 15 March, 19 April, 3 May, 24 May, 19 July, 9 August, 6 September, 11 October and Sunday 11am 2 May

RCIA

We met on a hot evening on Tuesday to discuss this week's gospel and to talk about prayer. It's very refreshing having to look at prayer—something very familiar to me - in the eyes of someone who is experiencing it for the first time. During the week, our candidates and team members had read a book called 'Pray as you are', by Brian Gallagher msc, as they began to look at what prayer means, and the 'how to' of conversation with God. It was overwhelming to hear them say how happy they were to know that praying is all about talking to God from where you are, honestly, trustingly. They were so relieved to know that they don't need to know dozens of formal prayers, they don't have to search for the right words or find new ways of expressing themselves in order to be in touch with God. To be able to speak to God, from the heart, to know that however they do so, is right—there's no wrong way, that what they'd been doing so far was OK, gave them great feelings of relief and hope for what can be. We were richly blessed on Tuesday night. *Liz Clark*

PARISH LIFE

We are hoping to make a DVD to showcase parish life this year. We would use it on our website & give it to new parishioners to introduce them to our community. Are there any VOLUNTEERS with expertise in filming/directing/editing or who have any helpful ideas? Please phone the Parish Office.

THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

'Imagine what it must have been like on the shore of the Lake of Gennesaret that day. "Put out into deep water," Jesus tells them, "and lower your nets for a catch." Simon, of course, counters: "We have worked all night and have caught nothing but at your command I will lower the nets." The nets are lowered and they catch "a great number of fish". 'And the history from that day at Lake Gennesaret forward is one filled with drama and doubt, excitement and fear, enthusiasm and exhaustion, miracles and misunderstanding, acceptance and rejection, life and death and life again. Simon and those first apostles Luke tells us, did "put out into the deep," an act of great faith: without knowing the path before them, "they left everything and followed him." "Put out into the deep water." Jesus was not making a recommendation here; he was giving a command. Jesus did not stay on the shore and simply send Simon and the other fishermen out alone. He got into the boat. And when the nets began to tear and the catch was beyond their expectations, when the going got rough, he was right there inside the boat to tell them "Do not be afraid." Excerpt from a homily by Very Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M., President of The Catholic University of America

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—February 14

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
6.00pm G Machado, J Morison, J&S Arcuri, M O'Brien
8.00am J Reid, C Chin
10.00am J D'Souza,
5.00pm MT Francisco, P Aldag
Ministers of the Word
6.00pm M Jeffares, E Colafella
8.00am B Reid
10.00am K de Lacy, A M Diggins
5.00pm M Waring, J Gunanayagam

Welcomers

6.00pm G Machado, J Morison
10.00am G Augustin, V&B Burns

Children's Liturgy—TBA

Altar Linen

February 7 M Rossely
February 14 P Fitzgerald

Counters

February 7 H Kerwin, M O'Connor
February 14 M Rossely, J Butler

Collectors 5pm

February 7 A Cutts
February 14 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

February 7—M Charles, 4/97 Hawthorn Rd, FH
February 14—A Leonard, 1/22 Graham Place

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

February 7 G Amato
February 14 R Bidinost

Lettori

February 7 M Salamone, V Peluso
February 14 N Pozzobon, A Lanza

Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 7 M Salamone, D Amato
February 14 M Casamento, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S—February 14

Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McMahon, T Nicholson, D Hayes

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am P O'Brien, T Shallvey,
F Fitzgerald, J Murphy, D Wolbers,
P Wolbers, P Cleary

Piety Stall—February 14

9.00am Farry family

From Fr Ben

*Early to rise,
Early to bed,
Makes you healthy
But socially dead.*

POINTS TO PONDER

- ★ *Are there ways in which you are sharing in the task of being a 'fisher' of others?*
- ★ *In what ways are you being asked to 'put out into deep water'?*

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.