



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

5th Sunday of Easter May 10th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds; he has revealed to the nations his saving power, alleluia.

Psalm Response

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; he who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, alleluia.

This week

Offer hospitality this week, not in the sense of offering food or drink but in making someone feel "at home", secure and accepted.

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.

Remain in Me

Faith is the greatest gift that we have received, but sometimes along the way we lose sight or become disillusioned or lukewarm in matters of faith. Today's gospel passage challenges us to remain in Christ.

"Every branch that bears no fruit, he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more". The Father as the vinedresser continuously cares for us so that we may bear much fruit. Branches which do not bear fruit he cuts away. I wonder what are the branches on our tree of life that do not bear fruit, and which are the branches the Lord wants to cut away? I think these are some attributes in lives of people that do not help them to blossom or bear fruit: addiction, unhealthy practices, gambling, negative attitudes, jealousy, fear, anger, bitterness, prejudice, sin and egocentricity.

What needs pruning in my book would be our virtues; kindness, generosity, patience, self control, prayer life and devotion which we practice but need to fine tune, or purify. Sometimes what seems to be altruistic could have hidden agendas or mixed motives. The action might be good but the motivation may not be so good.

We go through small conversions throughout our lives; it is like dying and rising again and sharing in the Paschal mystery of Christ. The Lord's call to us to remain in Him, tells us how much God loves us and we are part of him, we draw life from Him. These things are done in Christ, the transformation that takes place helps us to become daughters and sons of God the Father.

What can we do to remain in Christ? Do we allow the gospel to prune us?

"It is to the glory of the Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples".

Mothers remind me, of the vine and branches. Always giving and loving! From the moment of our conception their lives are not theirs any longer. Mothers gave us life and continue to make sure that we live that life to fullest. The wonderful gifts that we can give our mothers are to live life to our full potential and to **stay in touch!**

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Fr Anthony ofm

Parish of St Francis Xavier
1087 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128
Telephone 9890 2231
Facsimile 9898 4392
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au
www.scsfx.org.au

SFX Primary School 9890 1108
www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au

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

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

1 Jn 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

Jn 15:1-8

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Monday

Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday

Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31

Wednesday

Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday—St Matthias

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17

Friday

Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday

Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

NEXT SUNDAY

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 Jn 4:7-10

Jn 15:9-17

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 June 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 10 MAY 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER		MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
MONDAY 11 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 12 MAY	12.45PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA – SFX PHMR SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING (see below)
WEDNESDAY 13 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 BAPTISM PROGRAM
THURSDAY 14 MAY ST MATTHIAS	1.15PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—Val Mooney will speak to us about her recent visit to East Timor. See below.
FRIDAY 15 MAY	7.30PM-9.00PM	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP IN SFX PHMR
SATURDAY 16 MAY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE. ALL WELCOME.
SUNDAY 17 MAY 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	10.00AM 11.15AM 12.30PM	RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY GRADE 3 FAMILY MASS DVD ON BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP IN SFX PARISH HALL BAPTISMS AT SFX

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week, Val Mooney will speak to us about her recent visit to East Timor, where the people are struggling to rebuild their lives & homes & businesses, after the destruction that occurred when they voted for independence. We have some worthwhile goods to raffle, to enable us to make a contribution to the re-building. 1.15 in SFX hall.
Next week, "Biggest Lunch" to aid the Cancer Council; & May 28 film –"Easy Virtue". \$16.
Book with Marg 9803 4973.

**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.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

A Christmas Dinner will be held on Sat July 25th. **The Men of the Parish** are going to prepare the dinner!! A meeting will be held for men interested in helping with this event next Tuesday May 12th at 7.30pm. Please contact the Parish Office for further details.

FOOD at the BARN (FAB)

FAB is an ecumenical project by local churches to provide a 2 course lunch every Wed to people in need, app 50 people per week. This has been operating since 2000 at the Baptist Church in Station St. The Parish is next rostered on FAB on May 20. The meal that we provide costs app \$3 per head. If you would like to make a donation to the Parish costs please leave it in an envelope marked FAB at the Parish office.

CAR WANTED

A parishioner is looking to purchase a small second-hand car. Please call 9898 2953.

MINISTRY ROSTERS AT SFX

AVAILABLE ON TABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH IF NOT RECEIVED BY EMAIL.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OVER THE FOUR WEEKENDS OF MAY, CONTINUES TODAY AT BOTH PARISHES.
Collectors please note!

PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP

Next Sunday 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: \$877,950
Contributed by other donors: \$2,470,822
Total funds raised to date: \$3,348,772
(1 May 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.

CLEANING

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

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.

PLEASE ADVISE THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOUR GROUP WILL BE REPRESENTED.

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 are now open 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, 1st June, 20th July, 3rd August, 7th September, 12th October.

Are there any parishioners available to help transport some of our senior parishioners to Autumn Friendship activities on occasional Thursday afternoons? Please phone the office if you can help.

My corner

Now that the leaves are falling so quickly from our beautiful autumn trees, it's interesting to see the stark shape of the trees re-appearing, to notice where the summer's extreme heat has killed some branches, to watch the few persistent leaves that cling on tightly. Often I think that we aren't so lucky within the context of the Church year, as readings and liturgies are adapted for the seasons in Europe. But for this week, the reading of the vine and branches fits in nicely. I was driving past some vineyards on Sunday. The grapes are all finished, the leaves changing colour, or already fallen, and you can see the long tendrils on the vines that will need to be tidied up and reshaped, those that are withered and ready to be cut off and discarded. As the days get shorter, it's a good time for us to have a look at ourselves. During Lent we hopefully made some efforts to pray, fast and do good. Now that we have had these weeks of Easter, of rejoicing and being a bit more free, it's time to ask ourselves how we need to be reshaped, how much we are part of the whole vine. It prompts me to question how involved I am in the life of the church, especially in this community. Is it time for me to be pruned, to be fertilized, to be encouraged to grow and revitalize my own particular branch? Am I bearing fruit; do I have any prospect of doing so? Should I be cut away and burnt as a lifeless part of the vine?

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

A Mothers' Day Prayer

*Loving God, we pray:
for new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility ;
for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting;
for those who are tired, stressed or depressed;
for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family;
for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty;
for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities;
for those who raise children on their own;
for those who have lost a child;
for those who care for the children of others;
for those whose children have left home;
and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled.
Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender,
and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others. Amen.*

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.

NEWS FROM TOULOUSE – Charles and Elisabeth coming back to visit!

People who were involved last year with hosting our World Youth Day guests from Toulouse France may be interested to hear some news. Remember the leaders – Charles Bourcier and Elisabeth Arnaud? Well, after they returned home, they announced their engagement, and they were married on Anzac Day! They are coming to Australia to visit us for two weeks arriving on May 31. If you would like to catch up with them, please contact Mary Blundy (98908320 or maryblundy@hotmail.com).

From Fr Ben

For Christianity, the great religious struggle is not fought on a spectacular battleground, but within the ordinary human heart..... How monotonously alike all the great tyrants & conquerors have been: how gloriously different, the saints. (CS Lewis)

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MAY 17

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm V Bellis, M O'Brien, J Morison, M Rossely, M & A O'Connor
8.00am C Chin, J Reid
10.00am F Fitzgerald, C Hangan, K Kirwan, E & E VdW, G Augustin, W Tan

5.00pm P Aldag

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Jeffares, J Wells
8.00am B Reid
10.00am SCHOOL
5.00pm M Waring, K Ooi

Welcomers

6.00pm G Machado, J Morison
10.00am SCHOOL

Children's Liturgy

May 24—Ascension—Group C
June 7—Trinity Sunday—Group A

Altar Linen

May 10 P Fitzgerald
May 17 L Chin

Counters

May 10 P McLaughlin, G Kitch
May 17 T & E O'Brien

Collectors 5pm

May 10 I Mahlstedt
May 17 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

May 10—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St, Box Hill
May 17—V&B Burns, 2/11 Loddon St, BHN

Morning Tea (after 10am Mass at SFX)

May 10 V Bellis, P Linden
May 17 F Neyland, M Walker

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

May 10 P Grech
May 17

Lettori

May 10 A Lanza, L Ferola
May 17

Ministri dell'Eucarista

May 10 M Salamone, D Amato
May 17

ST CLARE'S—MAY 17

Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McDonald, K McMahon, D Hayes

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am P & D Wolbers, P O'Brien, I D'Amato
H Keown, D Tan, P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—May 17

9.00am Farry Family

POINTS TO PONDER

Are there people in your community with whom you can build better unity?

YEAR OF ST PAUL EPH 4:30

Never have grudges against others, or lose your temper, or raise your voice to anybody, or call each other names, or allow any sort of spitefulness.

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.