



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

5th Sunday of Easter May 2nd, 2010—Year C

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 your name for ever, my king and my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. 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

Can you take up the challenge & act with love towards all people you encounter 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.

New Creation

In the John's gospel today we hear Jesus saying, "I give you a commandment: love one another just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."

As disciples, Jesus is commanding us to love as he loved, love that will renew and recreate the earth, bringing healing, light and life, thus recreating and rebuilding what has been darkened and fragmented by sin. This new command is an invitation to go beyond our circle of friends and families, beyond our territory and cultural boundaries. It is a call to minister to others so that they can become more alive, have strength to renew, to change, to grow and become a new creation. In the same way what Jesus did was for others, helping them to come to experience and come to the fullness of life. Now the disciples are sent to encourage others to reverence themselves as gifts prepared to be given in gratitude to others.

Paul and Barnabas did exactly this in the first reading, encouraging the disciples to persevere in faith. We are called to enter into this process of renewing ourselves and in return to support others to enter into this process of renewal, not by force but by love. As Christians we do this all the time, renewing ourselves and others on our pilgrimage to God. The love that we are called to practise is not just at an emotional level, but is a love that will challenge, but also support and encourage people to move beyond the level of survival. It is a love that will bring to birth, a new life, bringing order and light, but also a love that heals and encourages people to enter into a process of re-creating themselves.

Obviously we have the opposite power as well, the dark side to us, the ability to create chaos and bring destruction. But when we accept being loved by the Creating God we become instruments of peace and love and we attract others to life. The more we have of our true self, the more we will want to share and give others their life. True love has a ripple effect.

Fr Anthony ofm

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North Box Hill, 3129
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This newsletter is also available on our website:
www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 14:21-27

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Apoc 21:1-5

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

Jn 13:31-35

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

Monday—Ss Philip & James

1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

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 15:1-2, 22-29;

Apoc 21:10-14, 22-23;

Jn 14:23-29

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 : 6 May 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 2 MAY	2.30PM	RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT SFX
MONDAY 3 MAY	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 HALL (OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706)
	4.00PM	CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
TUESDAY 4 MAY	12.45PM 3.00-3.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) PRAYERS IN SFX CHURCH (SEE BELOW)
WEDNESDAY 5 MAY	8.30AM 9AM-11AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252.
	10.30AM 1.30PM	SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HOUSE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - SFX PARISH HOUSE NO MEDITATION GROUP THIS WEEK (MORE DETAILS NEXT WEEK)
THURSDAY 6 MAY	9.15AM 1.15PM	YEAR 6 CONFIRMATION REFLECTION DAY AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—GENTLE EXERCISES WITH MARLENE AT ST CLARE'S.
	7.30PM	PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 7 MAY	11.00AM 7.30-9.00PM	HOLY HOUR AT SFX BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP (SFX PHMR)
SATURDAY 8 MAY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP. MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 9 MAY		MORNING TEA AFTER 9AM MASS AT ST CLARE'S
MOTHERS DAY	12.30PM	BAPTISM AT SFX

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Gentle Exercises with Marlene, this Thursday. These are always a lot of fun and you can simply watch if you're not feeling energetic. Next week we will have a musical afternoon, with John and Therese Parker. All parishioners and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information – Judy – 9878 4212. Advance notice – our next film, on May 27, will be "The Blind Side".

University student looking for babysitting & domestic cleaning jobs—call Lu on 0415 798 671 (rates are negotiable)

'LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU'

- "Love means loving the unlovable - or it is no virtue at all." *G.K. Chesterton*
- "The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies: probably because they are generally the same people." *G.K. Chesterton*
- "There is a famine in America. Not a famine of food, but of love, of truth, of life." *Mother Teresa*
- "I picked up a man from the street, and he was eaten up alive from worms. Nobody could stand him, and he was smelling so badly. I went to him to clean him, and he asked, 'Why do you do this?' I said, 'Because I love you.'" *Mother Teresa*
- "Our only business is to love and delight ourselves in God." *Br Lawrence*
- "If we discovered that we had only five minutes left to say all we wanted to say, every telephone booth would be occupied by people calling other people to stammer that they loved them." *Christopher Morley, US author & journalist (1890 - 1957)*
- "To love God is the greatest of virtues; to be loved by God is the greatest of blessings." *Unknown*

CONFIRMATION

The Grade 6 children from the school, along with the children who have been prepared by our catechist will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation today. Please pray for them.

PRAYER GROUP

Commencing Tuesday, May 4, you are invited to join a group of school parents & parishioners as we pray for the needs & concerns of our world, our families, our parish & school.

Each Tuesday - 3.00-3.30pm in SFX church. *Parents are encouraged to arrive early for school pick up, & spend a short time in prayer.*

GRIEF SUPPORT

All those who attended the Tobin Bros course on grief last year are invited to come to a meeting in SFX Parish House on Wednesday May 5 at 1.30pm to discuss how we can support other parishioners in times of grief or loss. Any other interested parishioners are most welcome to join us.

CITY OF WHITEHORSE PRAYER BREAKFAST

An annual event held in cooperation with the City of Whitehorse Council—Saturday, 15 May 2010 / 8:00 - 9.45am at The Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. Details at www.wpn.net.au
Three course breakfast (table service). Father Anthoni would like to put together a table of 10. Cut-off date for registration is 7 May, please ring the Parish Office if you are interested.

PHOTOGRAPHER!

During the past few weeks, you may have noticed a photographer taking photos at some of the Easter ceremonies and other church activities, which may be published on our website. If you would prefer not to have your photo published, please let the Parish Office know.

A NEW SERIES: 'MARY MACKILLOP - AN AUSTRALIAN LIKE US - NO 4

To bring some money into the poverty-stricken home, Mary MacKillop sought employment in Melbourne as a nursery governess and as clerk at Sands and Kenny the Stationers. In 1860, at age 18, she went to Penola (South Australia) as governess. Her writing style, teaching aptitude, and religious knowledge, indicate that she was well-educated. In May, 1873 she would explain: 'From (my father) I learnt so much. He had studied for seven years in Rome alone, and under the Jesuit fathers.' Provided by Sr Marie White rsj of the Sisters of St Joseph - www.sosj.org.au. For further information, see www.marymackillop.org.au and www.cathnews.com.au

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Today, Sunday 2nd May, is Respect Life Sunday. This year, the theme is *Respecting Life, Respecting Nature: There can be no true human development without openness to life*. Here we reflect on and discuss issues of population, climate change and human ecology. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that where there is a lack of respect for human life, society also ends up losing the concept of human ecology and along with it environmental ecology: the book of nature is one and indivisible. On this Respect Life Sunday, we pray especially for a renewal of authentic development, respecting all creation, especially the dignity of each human person. "Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Please pick up the resource material for Respect Life Sunday 2010.

My corner

Today I witnessed a miracle. I was with a group of about 50 11-12 year olds, and for ten minutes they lay or sat perfectly still without making any noise whatsoever! It was most impressive. In preparation for their Confirmation on Sunday, they were taking part in a guided meditation, focussing on their baptismal vows and what they mean to them now that they are old enough to take them on as their own. As they imagined conversing with Jesus about their faith, about the commitment they will make when they are confirmed, there was an overwhelming sense of peace in the church. For me there was a great sense of hope and excitement too. These fine young people are fully aware that taking this final step in their initiation into the church is serious and solemn; it is not something they take lightly. During the day I recognized many of the gifts of the Spirit already present among them in the ways they interacted with the teachers and one another, in their responses to questions, in the thoughtful consideration they gave to some of the challenges of their reflection day. I urge parishioners to pray for all these young people on this important day in their faith life.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISHES—SUNDAY MAY 30 AT 12.30PM IN ST CLARE'S HALL SAUSAGE SIZZLE FROM 11.30AM

GROUPS ARE ALSO INVITED TO SUBMIT BRIEF REPORTS TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY 12 MAY FOR INCLUSION IN THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Plans & future projects for the year ahead & a brief summary of the past year's activities, preferably by email, would be appreciated.

KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS RAFFLE

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses at both churches **NEXT WEEKEND**. Three attractive prizes to the value of \$12,000, \$2,000 & \$1,000. Tickets are \$2 each. All proceeds to Catholic charities.

GOOD SHEPHERD YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICE

".....sincere thanks for this kind donation of \$1,141.15 (Good Friday Youth Stations of the Cross Collection) in support of the work Good Shepherd is doing with disadvantaged young people in the community. Good Shepherd Youth & Family Service is very grateful for the ongoing commitment from Fr Anthoni & St Francis Xavier Parish. Our tradition of strengthening communities through education, advocacy & pointing people in the right direction to help them sort through the complex issues they are dealing with relies on the support of a caring community. Your generosity helps us to continue this work. Thank you." *Emily Jackson, Manager Marketing & Fundraising*

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 approx. 1 hour. Please meet at the school office by 9.10am for Monday tours and 10.50am for Sunday tour. Mondays @ 9.15am—3 May, 24 May, 19 July, 9 August, 6 September, 11 October and **Sunday 11am today 2 May**

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

The Mother's Day Stall has long been a tradition at SFX. This is a special opportunity when our children can go shopping (during school time), to buy something special for their Mum or Nana. The Mother's Day Stall will be held this Thursday for all Grades other than Grades 3 & 4 as they have an excursion that day and therefore they will have a VIP shopping experience on Wednesday the 5th May. The children are brought down to the stall one class at a time and are given the chance to spend the money that Dad so thoughtfully slipped into an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class on it. Dad would have remembered from last year the prices ranged from \$2- \$10, and he would also remember that the more presents Mum gets the happier she seems to be!! The shopping is all done under the watchful eye of our teachers and some beautiful Mums who have taken an oath of secrecy.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—May 9

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm M Slevison, G Machado, T D'Andrea, J&S Arcuri
8.00am F Neyland, J reid
10.00am R Paul, D Stephens, W Tan, C Hangan, V&G Mooney
5.00pm M T Francisco

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm S Hengeveld, E Colafella
8.00am F Neyland
10.00am H Miller, J Tan
5.00pm J O'Brien, T Parker

Welcomers

6.00pm G Machado, M Rossely
10.00am VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

Children's Liturgy

May 9—6th Sunday of Easter—Group B
May 16—Ascension of the Lord—Group C

Altar Linen

May 2 M Buhler
May 9 C Pollocks

Counters

May 2 M Rossely, J Butler
May 9 L&B Cohen

Collectors 5pm

May 2 P Aldag
May 9 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

May 2—B&V Burns, 2/11 Loddon St, BHN
May 9—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St, BHN

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

May 2 P Grech
May 9 G Amato

Lettori

May 2 M Salamone, D Amato
May 9 C Gibellini, P Grech

Ministri dell'Eucarista

May 2 D Amato, M Casamento
May 9 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera

ST CLARE'S—MAY 9

Ministers of the Word

9.00am—J Sakowski, T Nicholson, P Sakowski
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am—D Hardy, J Murphy, A McGovern, T Shallvey, H Keown, D Wolbers, P Wolbers
Piety Stall—May 9

9.00am—D Tan

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Quiet catholic female looking for 1 bedroom accommodation. Can afford \$150 per month. Please phone Ronnie on

POINTS TO PONDER

★ *How will people know that you are a disciple of Jesus?*

From Fr Ben

*I remind myself every morning: nothing I say this day will teach me anything; so if I'm going to learn, I must do it by listening.
Larry King (US broadcaster)*

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.