



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

5th Sunday of Lent March 29th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and defend my cause against the wicked; rescue me from deceitful and unjust men. You, O God, are my refuge.

Psalm Response

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon

I tell you solemnly: Unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

This week

*Make choices for others this week.
Die to yourself a little.*

**This newsletter also available
at: 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.

"now is the acceptable time"

Many of us sit on secrets for the whole of our lives. It takes a huge amount of energy to keep them hidden. And just when we think we have forgotten all about them, in a flush of shame something can cause us to remember what they are, and where we buried them. But it does not have to be like this.

If Ash Wednesday means anything, it begins the annual season in our lives when we can believe again that there is nothing that God's love cannot forgive and heal. Lent is the season that puts an end to all secrets, for at Easter we will remember that God held no secrets in regard to us, but sent his Son so that all the secrets of the world might be laid bare. This is a new way of understanding that "by his wounds we are healed."

In Lent this year we could do no better than privately and quietly go over our life and see where the bad spirit has us in his grip. What are the things of which we are ashamed? What parts of our life do we work hard to cover up? What are the secrets upon which we are sitting? These are the hiding places where the Divine Physician wants to make a house call this Lent. He knows where to go; all we have to do is let him in.

We don't have to think of this challenge exclusively in personal terms either. If we do nothing about helping our families, religious communities, workplaces, cities, or nation face up to being as transparent as possible, then we are complicit in its secrecy.

Confronting personal and social sin is never easy, but what a resurrection we could enjoy at the other end of Lent if in some way we know that we are spiritually healthier for shedding our secrets. There is no point putting it off anymore, because "now is the acceptable time; see now is the day of salvation!" (2 Cor 6:2). Let's grab it.

Richard Leonard SJ

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138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
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**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Scrutinies—10am Mass @ SFX
Ezek 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11;
Jn 11:1-45**

Jer 31:31-34
The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.
Heb 5:7-9
He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.
Jn 12:20-33
If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.
Monday
Dan 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62;
Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday
Num 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday
Dan 3:14-20,24-25,28;
Jn 8:31-42
Thursday
Gen 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday
Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday
Ezek 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
**NEXT SUNDAY
PASSION SUNDAY
(Entrance Mk 11:1-10
or Jn 12:12-16)
Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11;
Mk 14:1-15:47**

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

SUNDAY 29 MARCH 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	10.00AM 12.30PM 2.00PM	SCRUTINIES AT 10AM MASS AT SFX MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 1 BAPTISM AT SFX MUSICIANS PRACTICE FOR YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS
MONDAY 30 MARCH	8.30AM 10.00AM 4.00PM 7.00PM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY MASS AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706 CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S CONFIRMATION CLASS AT SFX PHMR
TUESDAY 31 MARCH	12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL	8.30AM 9AM-11AM 7.30PM 7.30PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS BAPTISM COURSE (PHMR) PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE—SFX CHURCH
THURSDAY 2 APRIL	12.00PM 2.00PM 7.30PM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—ANOINTING MASS & LUNCH PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE AT ST CLARE'S MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 3 APRIL	11.00AM 7.30PM 8.00PM-9.00PM	FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR AT SFX CHURCH STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN BOTH CHURCHES BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE AFTER THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT.
SATURDAY 4 APRIL	8.30AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome!
SUNDAY 5 APRIL PASSION SUNDAY	11.30AM 3.00PM	BAPTISM AT ST CLARE'S WEDDING AT SFX

This Thursday, the **AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will have its final meeting for first term. We will attend the Noon Mass, with anointing of the sick – and then go on to the BUS STOP CAFÉ, at Whitehorse Centro, for lunch. We will have a three course meal at a cost of \$10.00. Ring Marg – 9803 4973 – if you wish to join us. All parishioners and their friends are welcome to attend. Transport will be available from the church to the café.

The **First Friday (March) collection** for the Sacred Heart Mission School, in Sideia, PNG, totalled \$155.00. Many thanks to all who contributed. Please pray for the school community.

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.

This Easter, prominent Christian leaders are asking Australians to support Fairtrade and prevent the exploitation and enslavement of children and adults who pick cocoa beans for Easter eggs.

By supporting **Fairtrade** certified cocoa, consumers can ensure small holder farmers are paid fairly, receive investment to improve the future for their families, and are protected from the use of harmful agricultural products. Look for the **Fairtrade** symbol on chocolate made by companies like Cocolo, Oxfam Trading, Scarborough Fair and find Chocolatier eggs at Oxfam stores or selected outlets when shopping this Easter.



PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Parishioners are invited to use the opportunity to attend the PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE Wednesday April 1 @ 7.30pm at SFX & Thursday April 2 @ 2.00pm at St Clare's to complete their spiritual preparation for Easter.

After the service, the friars will be available for those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Each Friday during Lent in both churches @ 7.30pm.

GOOD FRIDAY
YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS @ 10am at SFX,
ITALIAN STATIONS OF THE CROSS @ 7pm at SFX.

LECTORS, MINISTERS OF COMMUNION, ALTAR SERVERS
IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE FOR MASSES DURING THE EASTER PERIOD, COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AT THE PARISH OFFICE THIS WEEK, SO THAT ROSTERS CAN BE ARRANGED AND YOU WILL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO PREPARE.

Father Anthony will celebrate Mass for the Francis/Clare Charismatic Prayer Community, at St Clare's Parish Hall, (enter from Harrison St, on Monday 30th March. Commencing with Praise and Worship at 10.00am, Mass 10.15am. Refreshments to follow. **ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOME.**

RCIA

My name is Oliviah Chitima. I have been in Australia for 2 years. I joined the RCIA because of my family. They are all Catholics and I felt left out when they went up to the altar to receive the Eucharist. I have enjoyed my journey and have learnt so much spirituality and on being a Catholic. I would like to thank Liz, Clare Hangan (my sponsor), the entire group members, the church, my family for supporting me throughout this journey.



This Sunday at the 10.000 Mass, our three RCIA members will take part in the third and final Rite of Scrutiny.

The whole community is invited to join our 3 Elect for the ceremonies of Baptism and Reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil at St Francis Xavier - 7pm Saturday April 11.

Following the Mass we will celebrate together in the hall. You are requested to bring a plate of food/drink to share for supper.

POINTS TO PONDER:

A warm welcome can mean a lot to someone who is looking for a church to belong to or to a long time parishioner who just needs a smile to get their day going.

My corner

Before he went away, Fr Anthoni and I discussed the Reconciliation service for next week. We looked at the situation of the bushfires, aware of so many people's hopes and dreams turned to ashes, of hearts broken, and questions unanswered, of feelings of anger and confusion and deepest sadness; of those who are bereft, those who still have their homes and feel guilty, of the anguish and bewilderment. As well, there are early signs of promise, of hope, of extreme generosity and open-heartedness, of genuine concern and love of neighbour, of communities being drawn together and sharing at the deepest levels. So the question he left me with was how to put these thoughts and ideas together into a meaningful reconciliation service, one that would help all of us understand the promise we are given through reconciliation and forgiveness. I've been thinking about this during the last week or so, and see images of the seeds that need to be burnt in a bushfire to regenerate; I've seen pictures of tree ferns, looking charred and desiccated with tiny new green fronds curling out from their centre; I've seen our own back lawn change from what looked like a hay paddock into a verdant pasture; I've notice the roses budding and blooming again, the excitement growing in our elect who are waiting to be baptised, and the eternal well of hope and that brims over so often after tragedy.

I think too of death and resurrection, of the blind man who found the light of Christ, Lazarus raised from the dead. We are challenged to plant seeds in the ashes of our lives and trust in the healing and transforming power of God. Join us on Wednesday or Thursday for our Reconciliation service.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

PROJECT COMPASSION FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

God calls us not only to life, but to live life to the full. This week's Project Compassion story introduces us to Bluey, who lives in one of Australia's most isolated desert communities, Wirrimanu (Balgo). He is participating in a project supported by Caritas Australia that encourages Indigenous youth to participate in employment and training, social and crisis support, and cultural and spiritual activities. Your Project Compassion donation enables Caritas Australia to continue addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of young people in Indigenous Australian communities.



THANK YOU!

Australians have generously given their time, their goods and their money to the Vinnies Victorian Disaster Appeal.

Your overwhelming response means Vinnies' volunteers can work side by side with the families and communities affected by the bushfires as they start the long journey to recovery.

Vinnies' Disaster Relief warehouse in Rowville is now closed to the public for donations and we thank the 2,800 volunteers who helped sort and distribute aid to bushfire survivors.

Vinnies' volunteers have been helping Victorians for 155 years. We are in it for the long haul.

Thank you for supporting the Vinnies Victorian Disaster Appeal.

NOTE TO PARISHIONERS

The Dorking Rd pedestrian crossing has been the site of a number of recent incidents, involving cars travelling from the West (Box Hill) along Whitehorse Rd and turning left into Dorking Rd, which fail to give way to pedestrians and in at least one incident knocking over a pedestrian. Parishioners are advised to be extra-careful when crossing at this intersection, and to look back over the right shoulder to ensure it is safe to cross.

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.

Seeking a Granny Flat

For a middle-aged single women who is currently studying Theology at YTU. I am quiet, neat and tidy and have an honest compassionate nature. Please phone Emmy on **9873 1119** or **0420 330 786** if you can help.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—APRIL 5

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm M Rossely, J Wells, A Leonard, M O'Brien, D Williamsz
8.00am C Chin, J Reid
10.00am K Kirwan, F Fitzgerald, E&E VDW, E Clark, P&R Cussen

5.00pm C Chessari

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Dodds, M Jeffares
8.00am C Gately
10.00am M Kirwan, P Fitzgerald
5.00pm L Mayne, K Ooi

Welcomers

6.00pm M Buhler, G&J Metral
10.00am E&E VDW, P Turner

Children's Liturgy

Altar Linen

March 29 E Vogels
April 5 O Rewega

Counters

March 29 P McGlin, P Madzarevic
April 5 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

Collectors 5pm

March 29 L Soulsby
April 5 I Mahlstedt

Rosary Statue

March 29—SVDP Nursing Home, 110 Albion Rd
April 5—M&L Soulsby, 7 Simpsons Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

March 29 P Grech
April 5 G Amato

Lettori

March 29 C Chessari, A Lanza
April 5 N Amato, R Bidinost

Ministri dell'Eucarista

March 29 D Amato, G Tabacchiera
April 5 M Salamone, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—APRIL 5

Ministers of the Word

9.00am T Nicholson, K McMahon, N Farry

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am J Murphy, P Cleary, P Ciccotosto, I D'Amato, P O'Brien, A McGovern, T Shallvey

Piety Stall—April 5

9.00am B Murphy



YEAR OF ST PAUL

GAL 5:17

If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you.

From Fr Ben

Not all of us are called to be hermits, but all of us need enough silence and solitude in our lives to enable the deeper voice of our own self to be heard at least occasionally. (Thomas Merton)

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.