



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 15th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Lord, be my rock of safety, the stronghold that saves me. For the honour of your name, lead me and guide me.

Psalms Response

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

They ate and were filled; the Lord gave them what they wanted: they were not deprived of their desire.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

you have chosen us to be your people, and have gathered us to live in this parish.

Be pleased with all our efforts to love you and serve you in word, worship and work.

Guide all our activities by the light of your Spirit, and help us to work for your honour and glory and the benefit of all your people.

May we fulfil our role as your ministers faithfully and well in service to our community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Archbishop deeply shocked by loss of life; praying for safety of fire-fighters

The Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart said today that his thoughts and prayers are with the communities suffering under the destructive force of the unprecedented bushfires in Victoria. 'Like all Victorians, I am deeply shocked by the loss of life,' he said.

'My heart goes out to those who have lost loved ones and those victims who are now in our hospitals,' the Archbishop said. 'I hold the greatest admiration for the courage and dedication of all the emergency services personnel, community workers and those in government who have worked so hard to protect the community. I pray for their safety as they work to bring the fires under control.

'I know many in the community feel a sense of powerlessness in the face of this crisis. I encourage the community to give blood and to respond generously to the appeals that have been established to assist fellow Victorians and communities to recover and rebuild their lives.

'The Archbishop said the Church stands in solidarity with the community ready to assist in whatever way it can.

The Archbishop said that he will continue to encourage prayers in all the churches of the archdiocese to honour those who have died and support those who have lost loved ones.

THERE ARE ENVELOPES IN THE PEWS FOR THE BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Letter to Fr Paul Smith ofm, Minister Provincial, Province of the Holy Spirit, Sydney.

"It is with the gravest concern that I have been following the series of recent natural disasters plaguing your country: the storms, the flooding, and now the destructive & deadly wildfires. These are great trials for the friars & for the entire population of Australia."

Please be assured that the friars & all the people of Australia are in my thoughts & in my prayers. May the Lord console you in your sorrow, & give you courage to face up to the challenges raised by these events.

May God bless you all!

**Br José Rodríguez Carballo ofm,
Minister General, Rome**

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 also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46

As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.

1 Cor 10:31—11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Mk 1:40-45

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

Monday

Gen 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

Gen 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

Gen 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday

Gen 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33

Friday

Gen 11:1-9; Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday

Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13

NEXT SUNDAY

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25

2 Cor 1:18-22

Mk 2:1-12

6

DAY

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 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 : 5 March 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 15 FEBRUARY 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 10AM 12.30PM | SCHOOL STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 4 BAPTISMS AT SFX |
| MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY 8.30AM 10.00AM | 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 |
| TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 12.45PM 7.30PM | LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM |
| WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 8.30AM 9AM-11AM 7.30PM | TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 BAPTISM PROGRAM AT SFX |
| THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 11.30AM | AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—MARTIN HARDY, OFFICE OF POLICE INTEGRITY IN SFX HALL |
| FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 7.30PM-9.00PM | BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE |
| SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 8.30AM | PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome! |
| SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY 1 BAPTISM AT SFX |

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Martin Hardy, a St Clare's parishioner, will be speaking to the Autumn Friendship Club this week, on his Churchill Fellowship overseas trip, last year, researching systems in place in other countries, in relation to police integrity. All parishioners and their friends are welcome to join us.

Next week, on February 26, is the film "Last Chance Harvey", with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson. Tickets (\$16.00) are selling fast, so contact Marg soon, if you want to attend.
Enquiries –Judy : 98784212.

The parishes of St Clare & St Francis Xavier offer warm congratulations to Ivan & Toni Mahlstedt on the occasion of their Diamond (60 years) Wedding Anniversary on the 19th February. And also to Glen & Dorothy Boyd and Ugo & Carmelinda Leo on their Golden (50th) Anniversaries.

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 ↓↓↓

CATECHETIC CLASSES

Catholic children attending State schools are invited to enrol for catechetic classes in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Communion. Classes begin with children in Grade 2. In addition, classes will be held for students from Year 6, who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. **Please phone the Parish Office (9890 2231)for Enrolment forms / information.**

A REQUEST FROM THE DEAN OF THE CATHEDRAL

If any parishioners are to be admitted to the following hospitals: St Vincent's Public, St Vincent's Private, Mercy Private, Epworth Freemasons—Clarendon St, Epworth Freemasons—Victoria Parade, Peter MacCallum, please request the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation & Anointing of the Sick from their local parish prior to being admitted & inform the Pastoral Care Department of the hospital on arrival.

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

R.C.I.A

On Tuesday night our RCIA group attended the Mission. Fr Justin was a powerful speaker and we all left the church feeling inspired and motivated. We went back to our meeting room to discuss the next week's gospel, which led on to a very poignant discussion of the bushfires last weekend. Every person in the group had been affected in some way, either personally or emotionally through the media reports. Someone mentioned something they heard someone say, and I thought it summed up what we all might be feeling, "Even though we can't see their faces, or be there to help, our hearts and souls embrace all those that are suffering." ~ Lisa Norton

My corner

As we end this grim tragic week, I am at a loss to know what I can say that is relevant or important. The media and modern technology have given us constant access to updates, personal glimpses, opinions and thoughts—to the victims' pain and anguish, to their fears and shock and anger, to the devastating sense of loss, to occasional glimmers of hope—the most profound range of emotions imaginable. Anything else that has happened in the world seems totally irrelevant. It has been as if we have collectively held our breath, fearing the worst, with just a tiny glimmer of hope that this couldn't be true. And it goes on and on, and we weep and we pray and we try to work out in our clouded minds what this is all about. We search for God, and I know I wonder 'where are you in all this, God?' I know he's somewhere, but it seems to be through clouds of smoke and haze. Our faith is tested.

In the Ash Wednesday fires, we were unable to contact my mother at Anglesea for about 36 hours. I remember the terror and anxiety and sheer dread of waiting and praying, and the range of possibilities that ran round and round in my head until the relief of a phone call from my brother—'she's fine'. And I remember her shock and disbelief and later sense of guilt at finding her home standing when her neighbours had lost everything. I remember the smell and the utter silence of the bush, where no leaves rustled, no birds sang. I also remember the seed of hope growing in that community, the hands and arms that reached out and held one another, that made sandwiches and found clothing and opened doors and wiped tears. And the ears that heard the stories, and the eyes that wept. I remember the hearts that broke and the people who left. And the determination and courage of those who stayed and started again. I know that there is hope, that life goes on, that good things often come out of bad. I also know that life will never be the same. Somehow, we must make that life better, more meaningful, more loving. We must plant seeds of faith and hope and promise, and water them with our tears, feed them with compassion, fertilize them with trust and optimism.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

R.C.I.A.

Please support Diana, Olivia & Garry & our RCIA support team by joining Most Rev Denis J Hart, Archbishop of Melbourne in celebrating The Rite of Election of Catechumens & the Presentation of Baptised Candidates to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 1 March at 2.30pm. Afternoon tea will follow at the Cardinal Know Centre. Coffee & tea will be provided. Please bring a plate to share.

SFX SCHOOL HOUSE NAMES

The Team House Names which have been decided after student voting and discussions with Fr Anthoni are as follows:

RED – Mackillop (Reflection: Mary Mackillop moved boldly and with courage)
 BLUE – Xavier (Reflection: Francis Xavier was a Jesuit missionary who travelled across the sea)
 GREEN – Sion (Reflection: Recognition of the contribution of the Sisters of Sion)
 GOLD – Assisi (Reflection: Yellow is a peace colour, Francis of Assisi taught about peace)

The house names were launched at the Beginning of the Year School Mass. The idea of using House names as well as team colours was put forward by the Education Board in 2008.

LETTER RECEIVED FROM SARAH

MENASSA, ANIMATOR OF JUSTICE, PEACE & THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION, FRANCISCAN PROVINCIAL OFFICE

"Dear Fr Anthoni and Parishioners, I write, on behalf of the Franciscan Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Commission, to sincerely thank you for this very generous gift of \$10,455.40 for the Franciscan community in Dotik, and \$544.60 for the Primary School in Weberek, Timor Leste. To everyone that has contributed, I thank you for all your kindness in raising this money, which will be used for developing and resourcing the community eco-pastoral programme and primary school.

The parish partnerships between Australia and Timor Leste have been invaluable. I encourage you to continue in your efforts to raise awareness and funds for these communities as your support is important to their future. The Province is planning a trip to Timor Leste in the next few months. I hope that in the near future we will have some information for you about how this money has been used in Timor Leste.

I thank everyone that has given time and financial support to this partnership over the years—please commend them on my behalf and offer them my support in future activities and initiatives. The community in Timor Leste has been fortunate to receive this support."

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.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—FEBRUARY 22

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
 6.00pm M Rossely, A Leonard, D Williamsz, E Kimmet, N Succar
 8.00am J Reid
 10.00am G Augustin, K Fazio, M Sinclair, L Lampard, P McLaughlin, W Tan, C Chessari

Ministers of the Word

5.00pm T Parker
 6.00pm L Sanelli, M Williamsz
 8.00am B Reid
 10.00am H Miller, K de Lacy
 5.00pm J O'Brien, L Soulsby

Welcomers

6.00pm D& M Williamsz
 10.00am Hangan family

Children's Liturgy

February 22—7th Sunday OT—Group C
 February 29—1st Sunday Lent—Group A

Altar Linen

February 15 E O'Brien
 February 22 M Buhler

Counters

February 15 B&C Parsons
 February 22 P McLaughlin, G Kitch

Collectors 5pm

February 15 P Aldag
 February 22 A Cutts

Rosary Statue

February 15—A Leonard, 22 Graham Place
 February 22—Quinn family, 5 Graham Place

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

February 15 P Grech
 February 22 G Amato

Lettori

February 15 V Peluso, N Tedone
 February 22 A Dinardo, A D'Alessandro

Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 15 G Massarotti, R Bidinost
 February 22 D Amato, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—FEBRUARY 22

Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McDonald, M Clark, N Farry

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am J Murphy D Tan, I D'Amato, A McGovern, P Ciccotosto, H Keown

Piety Stall—February 22

9.00am A Lindsey

YEAR OF ST PAUL

Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in the one body.

Hebrews 13

From Fr Ben

St Paul writes: My message was not delivered with skilful words of human wisdom, but with convincing proof of the power of God's Spirit. Your faith, then, does not rest on human wisdom but on God's power. (1 Corinthians 2:4-5)