



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 22nd, 2009—Year B**

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Lord, your mercy is my hope, my heart
rejoices in your saving power. I will
sing to the Lord for his goodness to
me.

Psalm Response

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned
against you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to
bring Good News to the poor and
freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I will tell all your marvellous works. I
will rejoice and be glad in you, and
sing to your name, Most High.

This week

*The paralysed man had to rely on
his friends to bring him to Jesus.
Can you bring a friend closer to
Jesus 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.

***Happy the man who considers
the poor and weak***

Metanoia is a Greek word used to express
the total interior conversion and radical
turning around that was demanded by
Jesus' call to repentance. The repentance
that Jesus preached was good news to be
received with joy.

The fact that humanity has turned away
from God in sin is the background to the
biblical call to repentance: the call to turn
away from evil and return back to God who
offers forgiveness. The turning about that
is required is a radical reorientation of one's
whole being and conduct, and such
repentance implies an interior conversion.
Our Catechumens who are preparing for
Baptism at the Easter Vigil are doing this,
and for the rest of us who have been
baptised it is a time to reflect on our
Christian vocation.

We too are called to turn towards God; Lent
is not just about doing penance but a call to
renew the face of the earth with charity.
The relationship of fasting with works of
justice and charity, a theme in the Judeo-
Christian tradition, has contemporary
relevance to us. This Lent poses us with
the challenges of the bushfires and the
global financial crisis. As Christians how
are we responding to these crises faced by
our brothers and sisters? I pray that our
works of charity, fasting and prayer this
Lent will help us to turn towards God. Our
rich tradition offers us ways to do penance,
not just ritually, but with justice in our
hearts.

"Is it not to share your bread with the
hungry, and bring the homeless poor into
your house?" (Isa 58:7)

In patristic literature, The *Shepherd of
Hermas* reads: "In the day on which you
fast you will taste nothing but bread and
water; and having reckoned up the price of
the dishes of the day which you intended to
have eaten, you will give it to a widow, or
an orphan, or to some person in want, and
thus you will exhibit humility of mind, so that
the one who has received benefit from your
humility may fill his own soul" (3.5.3)

Fr Anthony ofm

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**This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au**

**READINGS FOR
THIS WEEK**

**7th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

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

*On account of me your iniquities
are blotted out.*

2 Cor 1:18-22

*The son of God, Jesus Christ,
was not yes and no; in him it is
always yes.*

Mk 2:1-12

*The Son of Man has authority on
earth to forgive sins.*

Monday—St Polycarp

Sirach 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday

Sirach 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday—ASH WEDNESDAY

Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2;

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

Friday

Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32

NEXT SUNDAY

1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Gen 9:8-15

1 Pet 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

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 : 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 22 FEBRUARY 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12.30PM	PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA 1 BAPTISM AT SFX
MONDAY 23 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 24 FEBRUARY 12.45PM 7.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 8.30AM 9.00AM 9AM-11AM 12.00PM 7.30PM 8.15PM	ASH WEDNESDAY TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) MASS AT ST CLARE'S PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 MASS AT SFX MASS AT SFX FOLLOW-UP MEETING FOR REFLECTION/MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL
THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 9.15AM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—FILM "LAST CHANCE HARVEY" COACH LEAVES FROM DORKING RD BUS STOP AT 9.15AM
FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY 7.30PM-9.00PM	BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE
SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 8.30AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome!
SUNDAY 1 MARCH FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 10.00AM 12.30PM	GRADE 1 FAMILY MASS AT SFX 5 BAPTISMS AT SFX

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This Thursday we are attending a film; if you have booked your seat, please meet us at the bus stop, outside the church, in DORKING ROAD, at 9.15 a.m.

On **Thursday, March 12**, we have arranged a trip to the sand sculptures at Frankston. Twenty-one artists from Australia and all over the world have transformed 3,500 tonnes of sand into an amazing valley of prehistoric creatures. After viewing this, we will have a two-course lunch, at Seaford Taverner Hotel. The cost, based on 30 participants, is \$42.00. If we get more people, we can reduce the price. Invite your friends! As usual, at all our events, we welcome all parishioners and their friends. Contact Judy -9878 4212 -if you are interested.

PARISH MISSION

With the bushfires taking so much of our focus last week, we failed to mention the Parish Mission in the bulletin. We are grateful to Fr Justin for his inspiring input, so much so that at least 50 people have put their names down on a list to continue to take on his message about the importance & value of meditation in our lives.

On next **Wednesday, February 25**, an initial meeting will be held in SFX Parish Hall for all those interested in continuing this experience. It will begin at the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday 7.30pm Mass—i.e. around 8.15pm. All those on the list will be contacted. Please invite any other parishioners or friends who might like to join us.

Fr Anthony would like to advise parishioners of & acknowledge with thanks a generous bequest to the parish from the will of the late Mavis Arnolda RIP.

Hymn books at SFX—Decision is pending in respect of additional hymn books in the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

ST CLARE'S 9.00AM

SFX 12 NOON

SFX 7.30PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EACH FRIDAY DURING LENT AT 7.30PM IN BOTH CHURCHES

FOR THE INFORMATION OF PARISHIONERS - LENT 2009

The Lenten season has a two-fold character:

- (1) it recalls baptism or prepares for it;
- (2) it stresses a penitential spirit.

Lent readies the faithful for celebrating the paschal mystery after a period of closer attention to the Word of God, and more ardent prayer.

During Lent, penance should not be only internal and individual, but also external and social...The paschal fast should be kept sacred. It should be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection may be visited on uplifted and responsive spirits.

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of Fasting & Abstinence from meat. On all other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing anyone of the following: **Prayer; Self-Denial; Helping Others.**

All who have completed their 18th year & have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain. (*Canon 1252*)

R.C.I.A.

The RCIA group were delighted to have Br Matt Hufer ofm with them on Tuesday night. As a good teacher, he held everyone's interest and involved all of us in an informative and energetic discussion about sin and evil, reconciliation and healing, all tied together very tidily by this Sunday's gospel. Thank you, Matt, for your generous spirit.
Liz Clark

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 Knox Centre. Coffee & tea will be provided. Please bring a plate to share.

CATECHETIC CLASSES

Catholic children attending State schools are invited to enrol for catechetical 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.**

My corner

I can hardly believe it is Lent already—or at least will be, this week. I have to admit that I still haven't put all my Christmas decorations away, so I am not prepared for this new season. Over the past few months, we have experienced major DOWNturns in all sorts of ways, particularly in regard to the economy, employment, superannuation, water, ecological matters, the bushfires.....an unending list. So I've decided that it might be helpful if Lent was full of UPturns. What does that mean?

Maybe to give up something, as we used to as kids—sweets, alcohol, our various vices. Maybe to open up our hearts to others or our pockets to those in need. We could take up the opportunity Lent affords us to pray and reflect. We could also loosen up a little by listening to others more carefully, or reading a book or article that will inspire us to greater things. We could tighten up our tongues so that we don't gossip or malign others. We can close up our purses and make efforts be more frugal. We could sit up and listen better to the messages offered to us at Mass. We could get up and offer to help tidy the church or visit a neighbour. We could look up at the stars and marvel at God as creator. Maybe we need to grow up and be more responsible for our lives.

Whatever we choose to do this Lent I hope it will give us opportunities to grow in faith and love of God and neighbour. Onwards and UPwards!

*Liz Clark,
Pastoral Associate*

Today is Project Compassion Sunday

Project Compassion promotes peace by pursuing justice. Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes and give generously this Lent. Your donations allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with communities to reduce poverty and hunger around the world. **See back page for "What your dollars can do".**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009

Papua New Guinea
In Christ, Many Members Yet One Body



On March 6, 2009, the women of Papua New Guinea invite us to have the confidence of Ruth, who left what was familiar to her and went with Naomi to another land. They call us to ponder the mystery of our oneness in Christ in their context and our own.

We thank you, God, for directing our lives. As women united as one in your body, with your love and your power in us, we pray that we would be your instruments for peace and reconciliation.

CHRISTIAN REF. CHURCH
28 WATTS ST, BOX HILL
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH
9.30AM MORNING TEA
10.00AM SERVICE

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

You may be able to assist communities affected by the bushfire disaster. FR Greg Bourke, Bushfire Recovery Chaplain for the Archdiocese of Melbourne is calling for volunteers on behalf of the Victorian Council of Churches. If you can volunteer to help, fill in the Bushfire Recovery Volunteer Form & return it to the Parish Office or hand it at Mass.

YEA 'ST PATRICK' RACE DAY

Supporting the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal & Sacred Heart Parish of Yea. Sunday 1st March
Tickets: \$10 for children (Inc entry to the course and 2 course lunch)
\$30 for adults (Inc 2 course lunch, entry to course and race book)
The day is a great family day-outing! The community of Yea will also be show casing local wines and produce. Tickets must be pre-purchased. Please contact Julien O'Connell on ph.95923961/ mob.0413818001 as soon as possible! Thank you for your support!

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MARCH 1

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
6.00pm M Chandler, E Colafella, E&A Fabian, N Succar
8.00am F Neyland, S Carney
10.00am M Blundy, M Mackay, F Fitzgerald, C Hangan, K Kirwan, V&G Mooney
5.00pm E Umashankar
Ministers of the Word
6.00pm M Dodds, M Williamsz
8.00am C Gately
10.00am A M Diggins, E Abraham
5.00pm L Mayne, R Paul
Welcomers
6.00pm B&M Mahoney, J Morison
10.00am E&E Van Der Westhuizen

Children's Liturgy

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

Altar Linen

February 22 M Buhler
March 1 C Pollocks

Counters

February 22 P McLaughlin, G Kitch
March 1 T&E O'Brien

Collectors 5pm

February 22 A Cutts
March 1 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

February 22—Quinn family, 5 Graham Place
March 1—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

February 22 G Amato
March 1 G Tabacchiera

Lettori

February 22 A Dinardo, A D'Alessandro
March 1 M Salamone, D Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 22 D Amato, M Casamento
March 1 R Bidinoost, G Tabacchiera

ST CLARE'S—MARCH 1

Ministers of the Word

9.00am J Sakowski, M Hardy, P Sakowski
Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
9.00am P O'Brien, D Hardy, P Cleary, D Tan, D Wolbers, P Wolbers, T Nicholson

Piety Stall—March 1

9.00am E Boyle

YEAR OF ST PAUL

ROM 8:31

With God on our side who can be against us?

From Fr Ben

A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen. (Sir Winston Churchill)

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.