

Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 27th, 2011—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord has been my strength; he has led me into freedom. He saved me because he loves me.

Psalm Response

Rest in God alone, my soul.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I will sing to the Lord for his goodness to me, I will sing the name of the Lord, Most High.



This week

Put your energy into the really important things of life this week. Let the day to day worries about material comfort go. Set your sights on the kingdom of heaven.

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.

Thoughts on the Gospel

Today's Gospel presents us with a stark choice: to serve the one true God, our heavenly Father – or the false God of worldly possessions. Jesus leaves no room for doubt: 'You cannot serve both God and mammon' (Mt 6:24). Mammon is an Aramaic word meaning 'property' or 'material goods'.

This is not a comfortable message. We do not like to hear it. We do not like having to make such a choice – especially as it sometimes seems 'over the top' and clearly impracticable. We have to meet our mortgages; to educate our children; to save for our retirement. Surely Jesus knows that we all have to make some sort of accommodation with mammon? We cannot live on fresh air. We do have to live in the real world.

Before we consign this passage of Scripture to the too-hard basket, we might need to reflect on it more deeply.

Jesus is not condemning human effort, resourcefulness or prudent management of financial resources. He knows that we must work and plan for the future. He knows that we must use our wealth and our material possessions to live. Nonetheless, he does demand that we get our priorities right. We must resist absolutely any attempt to place the pursuit of temporal goods on a par with God. To do so would be to commit the sin of idolatry.

The Gospel asks us to examine our consciences and to purify our hearts. Where one's heart is, there one's treasure is. We are in constant danger of becoming immersed in worldly affairs and, to that extent, prone to neglect the things of God. To counter this tendency, we need to attune our intellects and wills to God in the pursuit of higher and lasting values.

The pursuit of material things is always accompanied by bouts of anxiety. Will I have enough money to live well? Will I be able to meet my commitments? How do I ensure my security? And on and on. These matters can absorb our attention and enslave us.

By contrast, Jesus tells us that there is no reason to be anxious. We are cared for by God himself. Consider for a moment the wonderful world of nature. Birds feed; lilies blossom; grass grows. Nature is sustained and renewed without effort by the providence of God. God's profligate care also extends to God's sons and daughters; to you and me. There is no cause for worry.

Too much anxiety about material possessions indicates a lack of faith in God's providence. No matter how determined, our efforts at independence and self-sufficiency ultimately fail. Human life, like all life, is not totally self-sufficient. From beginning to end, it depends on God. We find our meaning and our destiny only in God. So, a smart move is to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours as well" (Mt 6:33).

Michael Gilbert C.SsR

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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.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au

Parish of St Clare

138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone 9898 5080
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

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

**READINGS FOR THIS WEEK
8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Is 49:14 - 15:1

Even these may forget, says the Lord God, yet I will not forget you.

1 COR 4:1-5

The Lord will bring light to all that is hidden in darkness.

MT 6:24-34

Do not worry about tomorrow.

Monday

Sirach 17:20-24; Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday

Sirach 35:1-12; Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday

Sirach 36:1, 4-5, 10-17;

Mk 10:32-45

Thursday

Sirach 42:15-25; Mk 10:46-52

Friday

Sirach 44:1, 9-13; Mk 11:11-26

Saturday

Sirach 51:12-20; Mk 11:27-33

**NEXT SUNDAY
9th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Deut 11:18, 26-28, 32
Rom 3:21-25, 28
Mt 7:21-27**

FRIARS OF THE PARISHES
FR PETER McGRATH OFM
PARISH PRIEST
FR BOB MATTHEWS OFM
ASSISTANT PRIEST
FR PETER TRAN OFM
ASSISTANT PRIEST

Pastoral Associate/Assistant—

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

Pat Cleary Annie Setiawan
 Breta Cohen Dianna Hardy
 Ann-Marie Diggins Carmel Purdey
 Jane D'Souza Monique Waring
 Anthony Kennedy (ex-officio)
 Peter Leonard

Next meeting : 3 March 2011

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

Bookings can be made with SFX Parish Office for each Parish, and celebrated in the church requested. This is to avoid double bookings.

BAPTISMS

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 27 FEBRUARY	10.00AM	YEAR 4 FAMILY MASS
MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY	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)
TUESDAY 1 MARCH	12.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR)
	7.30PM	RCIA (SFX PHMR)
WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH	8.30AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)
THURSDAY 3 MARCH	1.00PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP GROUP—CHAT & CHEW (SFX HALL)
	7.30PM	PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
FRIDAY 4 MARCH	9-11AM	PLAYGROUP AT SFX IN OLD SCHOOL LIBRARY (SEE BELOW). CONTACT BRIDGET ON 0408 549 392
NO HOLY HOUR	10.00AM	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE/SFX CHURCH
	7.30PM	BIBLE DISCUSSION IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
SATURDAY 5 MARCH	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.
SUNDAY 6 MARCH	10.00AM	YEAR 5 FAMILY MASS
SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY	12.30PM	4 BAPTISMS AT SFX

PLEASE NOTE: NO HOLY HOUR ON FRIDAY 4TH MARCH DUE TO WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE AT 10AM

FROM FR PETER.....

The distinguished English Dominican, Fr Timothy Radcliffe has reflected long and lovingly on the Mass so central to our Catholic lives and produced a thoroughly prayerful and engaging reflection on what many of us celebrate or attend every day. I propose **Why Go to Church?** Be our Lenten programme for **Lent 2011**. Interested?

Why Go to Church? was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2009. With this in mind, I've approached the Rev Derek Jones of St Peter's, Box Hill and Rev John Smith of St Andrew's, Box Hill that we might share **Why Go to Church?** as our common programme together. Though both Derek and Andrew have their own programmes already in place they thought some of their congregations might like to share with the Catholics.

Ring the parish office (Tel: 9890 2231) to register interest.

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP GROUP

This week the Autumn Friendship Club will resume with an afternoon "get together" at 1pm in the SFX hall. The group who went on the cruise will be back & we can hear about their experiences. The following week, we will be entertained by "The Bellringers"; we will be asking for a small donation, to cover their costs. Our film, on Thursday March 24, is "The King's Speech". Please let Marg know if you want to go—9803 4973. \$18 covers the cost of the film, lunch & transport to & from the cinema.

EARTHQUAKE IN CHRISTCHURCH

On Thursday the Assistant Treasurer Bill Shorten announced changes to the AusAID list in the Declaration of a Disaster for Tax Purposes -Christchurch Earthquake. This declaration means that public funds established and maintained by a public benevolent institution solely to provide money for the relief of people in New Zealand, who are in distress as a result of the Christchurch earthquake, can be endorsed as 'developed country relief funds'. This statement by the Assistant Treasurer enables Caritas Australia to accept donations which will be directed to Caritas New Zealand. Donations for the Caritas Australia - Christchurch Earthquake Appeal can be made in the following ways:

- Online at www.caritas.org.au (follow the links)
- Cheque: Caritas Australia - Christchurch Earthquake Appeal, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne Vic 3002

FIRST FRIDAY COLLECTION

Many thanks to who contributed \$204.60 to the February First Friday collection for the Sacred Heart Mission School in Sidea, PNG. This money goes to a fund, which enables children from villages on outlying islands to attend school, where they might otherwise miss out, as the families are very poor.
Imelda, Ivan, Judy

DONATIONS OF TOYS AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Needed for Samata Sarana, Kindigoda, Sri Lanka. Samata Sarana feeds over 500 people a day, runs a day care centre for single parents, a school for over 300 plus children who also receive breakfast and lunch, a day centre for the elderly who are also fed and sent home with dinner packets. Please contact: Michelle on 9898 7021.



ST FRANCIS XAVIER PLAYGROUP

For all children 0 to school age

NOW EVERY FRIDAY MORNING 9AM – 11AM

In the building next to the church. (Old School Library)
 Contact Bridget on 0408 549 392

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

10am - FRIDAY, 4 MARCH

St Francis Xavier Church

St Clare and St Francis Xavier Parishes are hosting this year's service. The service has been prepared by the women of Chile and they are asking "How Many Loaves Have You?"

Plan to come and hear the answer.

Guest speaker:

BARBARA MONTOYA

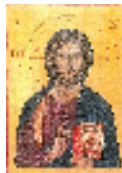
a member of the Melbourne Chilean Community

EVERYONE is WELCOME.

Parishioners from all local churches, together with The Mayor of Whitehorse, Cr Ben Stennett, and other local dignitaries, will be joining us as we pray in solidarity with Chile on this special day.

ART OF THE ICON

Learn to paint icons the traditional way. Classes: 10am till 12 noon, commencing 3rd March till November 24th. Classes will be held at St Paschal's, 90 Albion Road, Box Hill. Enquiries to Brother Ignatius 9896 4400.



PRICES REDUCED!

RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW.

Registration and final payment for WYD Madrid is due on **FRIDAY 15 APRIL**. So if you want to join the pilgrimage, don't leave it to the last minute! Reserve your place NOW on the pilgrimage of a lifetime! **Prices have been reduced!**
Real Madrid - \$4850 (was \$5100)
Italian Roadtrip - \$6390 (was \$6390)
Footsteps of Jesus- \$6290 (was \$6290)

SHARE THE DREAM - 3RD NATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILY GATHERING

15 - 17 April - Xavier College Kew International & local speakers
36 Practical Workshops to choose from
A celebration for the whole family
To find out more visit
www.sharethedream.org.au or call
(03) 9287 5576

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

MORNING TEA
following the Service

CAN YOU HELP???

We need your support!!!!

Are you able to make:
Cakes or Slices or Sandwiches ?

Please phone:
Mary - 9898 6183; or

Joan - 9890 2663

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated
MANY THANKS!



REVISED TRANSLATION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

"By now, we should all be aware that we are preparing for a change in the words we use to celebrate the Holy Mass. These changes have been well publicised, even in the secular media, but perhaps not so well understood. To aid understanding of the changes that will be implemented, I intend to devote a series of 'Heartbeat' columns over the next six months to exploring and explaining the specific changes we will encounter. Details of all the changes to the people's part of the Liturgy are available on the Archdiocesan website (www.cam.org.au) under 'The Revised Roman Missal'." *Archbishop Denis Hart*
Kairos: Volume 22, Issue 2
<http://www.cam.org.au/hartbeat-2011/and-with-your-spirit.html>
SEE ALSO WORKSHOP ON 'CELEBRATING THE EUCHARIST' AT HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH ON SATURDAY MARCH 19TH ON BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Year Four Family Mass We hope to see all Year Four families at the mass at 10.00am on Sunday. This is a great way to celebrate with our parish and to show our support for each other.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—March 6

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
6.00pm V Bellis E&A Fabian M O'Brien
D Williamsz
8.00am J Reid
10.00am E & E VDW M Ferdinando
L Lampard J D'Souza W Tan
M Hughes
5.00pm M T Francisco
Ministers of the Word
6.00pm E Colafella, M Dodds
8.00am B Reid
10.00am GRADE 5
5.00pm J O'Brien, A Netherway
Welcomers
6.00pm M&D Williamsz
8.00am J Reid
10.00am E&E VDW
5.00pm J Dominic
Children's Liturgy

Altar Linen

February 27 P Turner
March 6 M Rossely

Counters

February 27 R&Y Roy
March 6 p McLaughlin, G Kitch

Collectors 5pm

February 27
March 6

Rosary Statue

February 27—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd
March 6—La family, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

February 27 G Amato
March 6 G Tabacchiera

Lettori

February 27 C Gibellini, P Grech
March 6 N Pozzobon, J Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 27 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera
March 6 M Casamento, M Salamone

ST CLARE'S—March 6

Ministers of the Word

D Hardy, P Fitzgerald, C Hardy

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

J Murphy, D Hardy, P O'Brien, I D'Amato, D Tan, D Wolbers, P Wolbers

Welcomers

H Keown, A La Scala

Piety Stall—March 6

B Murphy

POINTS TO PONDER

- ✦ *How challenged do you feel by this week's Gospel?*
- ✦ *What is your primary focus? Does your energy go into assuring material comfort or into pursuing your relationship with God?*

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 & St Clare's.