



# Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the  
Franciscan Friars*

## Ascension of the Lord May 24th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

### Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia.

### Psalm Response

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world, alleluia.

### This week

'This week, on 25 May, we celebrate the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians Patroness of Australia. The title 'Help of Christians' was first used in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Pope Pius V. In 1815 Pope Pius VII established the feast day of 'Mary, Help of Christians'. The early church in Australia was nurtured by a strong devotion to Mary and the Rosary and in 1844 invoked 'Mary, Help of Christians' as the Patroness of Australia. Let us pray that God will deepen our love of 'Mary, Help of Christians' and that though her intercession Australia will be granted harmony, justice and peace.'

### 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.

### *Signs will be associated with believers*

What are the signs as believers that we are presenting to the world? Sometimes I feel my world is small in terms of dealing with people outside the faith. And occasionally I wonder whether you and I make a difference in our world as Christians. There is a perception out there that all we are doing is serving our own needs but there is also an acknowledgement that religious belief is important for our well being. Spirituality and meditation has caught on in the secular world. However the pressure is on us to keep the domain of religion separate; which is not what Christianity is all about. The Incarnation of Jesus is a reminder to us that the whole world is sacred. The Creator by becoming creature, made the whole of creation sacred and we are called to divinise the world.

Sometimes preachers don't help when they separate reality into the sacred and the profane. We can reduce our faith into something of our own making. The point of having Jesus is as a reminder of who we are and what we are able to be. This is not a simple question, it is about humanity and creation and its purpose. We have the responsibility to participate in the kingdom building, not simply as observers. As the human race we are becoming more aware of how connected the whole of creation is, and we are evolving and growing together in Christ.

Most people are reassessing their values and priorities in life following the global financial crisis, going back to the basic questions concerning what life is all about. Many have lost jobs and others are struggling to make ends meet. We know the poor nations are the worst off in times of economic upheaval. Still we have to ask some hard questions. How are we as a church giving leadership in times like this in our world? What are we actually offering people? What do people need?

As Christians we are to proclaim the good news to all creation. We are given the assurance that the Lord is working with us and confirming the word by accompanying signs.

Do you believe this? Reflect on the ways in which you proclaim Christ, and what are the signs that accompany you.

*Fr Anthony ofm*

**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](http://www.scsfx.org.au)

**SFX Primary School** 9890 1108  
[www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au](http://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 is also  
available on our website:  
[www.scsfx.org.au](http://www.scsfx.org.au)

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

#### ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

Eph 1:17-23

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

Mk 16:15-20

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven & is seated at the right hand of God.*

**Monday—Mary Help of Christians**

Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31;

James 3:13-18; Lk 1:39-56

**Tuesday—St Philip Neri**

Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11

**Wednesday**

Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19

**Thursday**

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

**Friday**

Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday**

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

#### NEXT SUNDAY

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

or Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 or

Jn 15:26-27, 16:12-15

## 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 : 4 June 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

<b>SUNDAY 24 MAY</b> <b>ASCENSION OF THE LORD</b>	<b>11.00AM</b> <b>12.30PM</b>	<b>WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY</b> <b>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY</b> <b>MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA</b> <b>PARISH EXPO IN SFX HALL</b> <b>AGM IN SFX HALL</b>
<b>MONDAY 25 MAY</b> <b>MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS</b>	<b>8.30AM</b> <b>10.00AM</b> <b>4.00PM</b>	<b>SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX</b> (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. <b>FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY 10TH ANNIVERSARY MASS AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL.</b> OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706 <b>CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S</b>
<b>TUESDAY 26 MAY</b>	<b>12.45PM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY @ SFX</b> <b>RCIA (PHMR)</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 27 MAY</b>	<b>8.30AM</b> <b>9AM-11AM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	<b>TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)</b> <b>PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481</b> OR TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252 <b>MEDITATION GROUP IN SFX HALL. NEWCOMERS WELCOME</b>
<b>THURSDAY 28 MAY</b>	<b>9.15AM</b>	<b>AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—FILM. See below.</b>
<b>FRIDAY 29 MAY</b>	<b>7.30PM-9.00PM</b>	<b>BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP IN SFX PHMR</b>
<b>SATURDAY 30 MAY</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>	<b>PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE.</b> ALL WELCOME.
<b>SUNDAY 31 MAY</b> <b>PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	<b>10.00AM</b>	<b>GRADE 4 FAMILY MASS</b>

## AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

**This week,** Film—"Easy Virtue" with Colin Firth and Kristin Scott Thomas. Those who have booked meet at 9.15am at the Dorking Rd bus-stop." Judy Reid 8787 4121.

**Next week,** Gentle Exercises with Marlene in the hall at 1.15pm.

**Men of the parishes** interested in assisting with the organisation of and/or the preparation of '**A WINTER BANQUET**' on July 25<sup>th</sup> are invited to register their interest at the Parish office on 9890 2031 or attend a meeting at SFX Parish House at 7.30 PM on Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. No qualifications required although aspiring chefs most welcome !!

## FOOD at the BARN (FAB)

FAB is an ecumenical project by local churches to provide a 2 course lunch every Wed to people in need, approx 50 people per week. This has been operating since 2000 at the Baptist Church in Station St. The meal that we provide costs app \$3 per head. If you would like to make a donation to the Parish costs please leave it in an envelope marked FAB at the Parish office.

## NATIONAL SORRY DAY – TUESDAY 26 MAY

The National Sorry Day Committee "invites you to join the Stolen Generations and thousands of other Australians who will gather throughout the country and overseas for Australia's National Sorry Day. Schools, Tertiary Education Facilities, Community and Business Groups, Spiritual and Faith Institutions, Government Departments and many others will participate in events and activities to acknowledge and commemorate the removal of thousands of First Nations Children of Australia through the racially discriminatory removal policies of past governments. In the spirit of the historic National Apology to the Stolen Generations on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2008, the National Sorry Day Committee invites all Australians to come together and to share a morning tea or lunch as a way to Commemorate National Sorry Day with the Stolen Generations and to Celebrate the Apology."

## ANNUAL MASS COUNT

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OVER THE FOUR WEEKENDS OF MAY, CONCLUDES TODAY AT BOTH PARISHES.

**Collectors please note!**

## PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP

**Stage 1: WALKING PILGRIMAGE** on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June in Melbourne.

**Stage 2: VISIT TO MARY MACKILLOP MUSEUM** in East Melbourne on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July

**Stage 3: VISIT TO SYDNEY**—August 21<sup>st</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>

**SEE FLYER ATTACHED FOR ALL THE DETAILS**

**UPDATE: CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITABLE FUND—Bushfire Appeal**  
Number of parishes that have contributed: 202  
Contributed by parishes: \$884,214  
Contributed by other donors: \$2,498,747  
Total funds raised to date: \$3,382,961  
**(14 May 2009)**

An on-line subscription facility to the Recovery newsletter is now available on the archdiocesan website. The on-line subscription facility can be found by following the links from the home page of the website: [www.melbourne.catholic.org.au](http://www.melbourne.catholic.org.au).

## CAR WANTED

A parishioner is looking to purchase a small second-hand car. Please call 9898 2953.

## CLEANING

Reliable honest lady to do house & office cleaning, available Monday to Saturday. Excellent references supplied. Contact Frances on 9894 7893.

**INFORMATION & TRAINING FOR  
NEW & EXPERIENCED**

Ministers of Communion

Wednesday June 10—2pm

Thursday June 11—7.30pm

Ministers of the Word

Wednesday June 17—2pm

Thursday June 18—7.30pm

**PENTECOST SUNDAY CELEBRATION!**

Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, is the Name-Day for the Franciscan Province in Australia and also for the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters.

The sisters and the Divine Word Missionaries will lead the music for the 10am Mass at SFX.

Afterwards everyone is welcome to join the sisters for a cuppa in the Parish Hall.

The **GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE FRANCISCAN ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR** will be held in Assisi commencing Monday 25th May until Saturday 20th June. Please keep the friars in your prayers as they discern together the future direction of the order.

**My corner**

A couple of weeks ago at the Maytime Fair at Xavier College, I ran into a woman I'd been to school with well over 40 years ago. We had been good friends, but she moved to Perth and we lost touch with one another. I took one look at her face, and immediately knew who she was. I felt such a surge of joy as we hugged one another, stood back and took in all we could see, and then began a very excited conversation about all that has happened in those missing years. Later that evening, I went to friends' 40th wedding anniversary party, and met up with people we hadn't seen at all for years. It amazes me—though a bit greyer, plumper, slightly more weather worn, they still looked the same, sounded the same, remembered many of the things we had done together in the past. We were able to share so many stories of the things that are important to us now—our families, our jobs, our faith, our lifestyle. What we had in common with all these people was our Catholic education and upbringing, and the life we had shared in our late teens and early twenties as we struggled to find out who we were, where we were going, how we could get there. There were many happy stories, a few sad ones. Most of all, we found we were still interested in each other, we really cared about what had been happening. It's like friendship with God—no matter how long we are away, no matter what we have done, we are always still part of God's family—a branch on the vine, a sheep in God's fold. We should never be anxious about how God will accept us.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

**PARISH EXPO & AGM**

TODAY FROM 11AM IN SFX HALL.

**IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE GROUPS IN THE PARISHES OR ON A MINISTRY ROSTER, PLEASE COME TO THE HALL AND SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER PARISHIONERS.**

**FROM VICROADS—RE CROSSING**

Subsequent to our discussion on 11 May 2009 in regard to your email dated 24 April 2009 addressed to City of Whitehorse, I provide the following comments:

As discussed, I have reviewed the above intersection and found that the site has an existing flashing "Give Way to Pedestrian" sign to remind motorists turning into Dorking Road of their obligation to give way to the pedestrians on Dorking Road. This sign has been found to operate satisfactorily.

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

2010 Prep Enrolments are now open for Baptised Catholic children who turn 5 years of age by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010. Enrolments close Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Enrolment forms can be obtained from School Office. (Phone: 9890 1108 Hours: 8.30am-4pm Monday-Friday during school terms).

**SCHOOL TOURS** at 9.15am (approx 1 hour) on Mondays, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**NEWS FROM TOULOUSE – Charles and Elisabeth coming back to visit!**

People who were involved last year with hosting our World Youth Day guests from Toulouse France may be interested to hear some news. Remember the leaders – Charles Bourcier and Elisabeth Arnaud? Well, after they returned home, they announced their engagement, and they were married on Anzac Day! They are coming to Australia to visit us for two weeks arriving on May 31. If you would like to catch up with them, please contact Mary Blundy (98908320 or [maryblundy@hotmail.com](mailto:maryblundy@hotmail.com)).

**POINTS TO PONDER**

*People often wait to see things happen. As a dear friend used to say often when asked for a decision or direction, "let's see what eventuates." Notwithstanding the energies of existing volunteers (and there are many), don't sit back and "be managed.." **Make a contribution.** You just might make new friends & be a contributor to an environment that provides a great influence on your own development & that of your family.*

*From Fr Ben*

*Wife: Did you have a nice day, dear?  
Husband: No, terrible, all the computers were down, and we had to think!*

**ROSTERS**

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—MAY 31**

**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

6.00pm E Clark, J Morison, M Rossely, F Neyland, J Wells  
8.00am C Chin, J Reid  
10.00am E&E VDW, G Augustin, L Lampard V&G Mooney, M Sinclair  
5.00pm P Ruff

**Ministers of the Word**

6.00pm M Jeffares, C Gately  
8.00am J Manshon  
10.00am SCHOOL  
5.00pm M Soulsby, L Soulsby

**Welcomers**

6.00pm J Morison, L&W Norton  
10.00am E&E Van Der Westhuizen

**Children's Liturgy**

June 7—Trinity Sunday—Group A  
June 14—Body & Blood of Christ—Group B

**Altar Linen**

May 24 I Balchin  
May 31 L Sanelli

**Counters**

May 24 J Reid, M Rossely  
May 31 B&M Walker

**Collectors 5pm**

My 24 A Cutts  
May 31 L Soulsby

**Rosary Statue**

May 24—J&W Burrows, 11 Taldra St, BHN  
May 31—M&B O'Shaughnessy, 53 Kerrimuir St

**Morning Tea (after 10am Mass at SFX)**

May 24 M O'Connor, Leonard family  
May 31 GRADE 4 FAMILY MASS

**ITALIAN MASS**

**Commentator**

May 24 J Adamo  
May 31 P Grech

**Lettori**

May 24 N Pozzobon, A Lanza  
May 31 R Bidinost, C Gibillini

**Ministri dell'Eucarista**

May 24 M Casamento, G Tabacchiera  
May 31 R Bidinost, M Salamone

**ST CLARE'S—MAY 31**

**Ministers of the Word**

9.00am P Fitzgerald, M Clark, M Farry  
**Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**  
9.00am P O'Brien, J Murphy, D Tan, T Shallvey, F Fitzgerald, P Cleary, P Ciccotosto  
**Piety Stall—May 31**  
9.00am B Murphy

**YEAR OF ST PAUL**

EPH 3:18-19

May (God) give you the power through his Spirit for you hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of 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 and St Clare's.

# MOTHER MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE 2009

## STAGE 1 - WALKING PILGRIMAGE IN MELBOURNE

Sunday June 14th

Meet at 1pm at Box Hill Tram Stop (Terminus)

- Visits to:
- i] Her birthplace
  - ii] Latrobe St site of a "Providence"
  - iii] St Francis Church
  - iv] View (outside) of Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Albert St, East Melbourne  
(Brochure will be available for pilgrims)



## STAGE 2—VISIT TO MARY MACKILLOP MUSEUM

Sunday July 26th - 2pm-4pm

Meet at 1pm at Box Hill Tram Stop (Terminus)

At Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in Albert St, East Melbourne

Refreshments provided

Retail Therapy available! (shop will be open)

## STAGE 3—VISIT TO SYDNEY

Weekend of August 21st—23rd

Principal visit to Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney

At North Sydney, Mary MacKillop Place, there is the Museum & the tomb/grave of Mary MacKillop

To arrange accommodation & airfares, some pilgrims may wish to make their own arrangements. For times of flights & accommodation, etc, if others (maybe most) need them—Fr Bob suggests:

Mr Gus Uberti

Pellegrino Travel

281 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood 3134

9870 9055

email: [gus@pellegrinotravel.com.au](mailto:gus@pellegrinotravel.com.au)

If you wish to accompany Fr Bob, the arrangements are:

- i] Leave Melbourne airport around midday Friday (Aug 21)
- ii] Stay at Meriton Apartments, Bondi Junction  
(very close to public transport)
- lii] Return Sunday evening - or maybe stay on if you wish

Approximate cost for the accommodation & airfares is \$500 per person.

ALL BOOKINGS SHOULD BE MADE DIRECTLY WITH  
PELEGRINO TRAVEL

