



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

Ascension of the Lord May 16th, 2010—Year C

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

*Live joyfully this week.
Try to bring joy to another.
Practice continually praising God in all the small actions of your day.*



You will be my witnesses

In the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles the author states how he has “dealt in my earlier work with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit”. They will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes, and then, they will be witness to the ends of the earth.

We may not realise or may have not become aware that Christian life is an extension of Christ's life on earth. We are the body of Christ, the presence of Christ in the world. We are called not just to confess our faith but to live for Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. In a way, the Sacraments of Initiation point us to or initiate us into the life of Christ on earth. The whole idea of the Incarnation of Jesus, the Word taking human flesh, is meant to help us to give flesh to the Word of God. What Jesus had done and taught is not just important for its historical context, but is meant to help us to live like Christ in our current climate, be it in a political or social or family context. God's word is active and alive.

The Bishop's Conference for Wales and England issued a pamphlet entitled “Choosing the Common Good”, to help the British people to focus and make informed decisions for the recent election. The essence of the document is on social justice, interdependence and mutual responsibility for one another's dignity – the common good. What followed was the examination of each of the main parties' policies on a range of topics; e.g. the environment, energy, housing, transport, marriage and family life, care of the elderly, foreign policy, defence, and international development, in the light of the common good

As a Church we are to lead by witnessing to the world. We are witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. We are to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins, but before we do that, we are called to live that repentance and forgiveness in our lives. The Church has so much to offer the world, and to do that effectively we too constantly have to renew ourselves. The current crisis presents an opportunity for reform and renewal. The Gospel has the power to redeem us.

Fr Anthony ofm

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This newsletter is also available on our website:
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.

Lk 24:46-53
While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Monday
Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday
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 Rom 8:8-17)
Jn 20:19-23
(or Jn 14:15-16, 23-26)

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.

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:

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

Veronika Bellis *Liz Clark*
Pat Cleary *Dianna Hardy*
Breta Cohen *Carmel Purdey*
Ann-Marie Diggins *Monique Waring*
Jane D'Souza *(ex-officio)*
Anthony Kennedy
Peter Leonard

Next meeting : 3 June 2010

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 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 16 MAY	12.30PM	2 BAPTISMS AT SFX
MONDAY 17 MAY	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)
	4.00PM	CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S
TUESDAY 18 MAY	12.45PM 3.00-3.30PM	LEGION OF MARY (SFX PHMR) PRAYERS IN SFX CHURCH (SEE BELOW)
WEDNESDAY 19 MAY	8.30AM 9AM-11AM	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252. MEDITATION GROUP WILL RECOMMENCE WEDNESDAY 23 JULY
THURSDAY 20 MAY	12.00PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—ANOINTING MASS AT SFX, FOLLOWED BY CANCER COUNCIL LUNCHEON AT ST CLARE'S
FRIDAY 21 MAY	5.00-6.30PM 7.30-9.00PM	LADIES DRINKS AT BOX HILL RSL BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP (SFX PHMR)
SATURDAY 22 MAY	9.00AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP. MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE RCIA - MASS & DINNER
SUNDAY 23 MAY	PENTECOST	WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

This week, the Autumn Friendship Club is participating in "Australia's Biggest Morning Tea" - annual fundraiser for the Cancer Council; but in fact we will have lunch! First, we will attend the noon mass at SFX, with anointing, then adjourn to St. Clare's for lunch. Entry is by gold coin donation; please bring a plate of finger food to share. Next week, we are attending the film "Blind Side", with Sandra Bullock, followed by a basket lunch – cost - \$16.00. Please ring Marg if you wish to come – 9803 4973. All parishioners and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.

FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER

COMMUNITY—Fr Anthoni will celebrate Mass for the Francis/Clare Charismatic Prayer Community, in the NEW HALL AREA of St Clare's School (enter from Killara St car park) on Monday 24th May. Commencing with Praise & Worship at 10.15am. (mass at 10.30am) Light Lunch & Fellowship to follow. All Parishioners are invited to join us on this day which marks our 11th Anniversary.

VOLUNTEERING: NOW, MORE THAN EVER

National Volunteer Week, 10-16 May 2010
National Volunteer Week (NVW) is the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia, and provides an opportunity to highlight the role of volunteers in our communities and to say thank you to the more than 5 million Australians who volunteer. Australian volunteers are essential to society, and many charities would struggle to survive without the support of their volunteers. Australian volunteers contribute more than 700 million hours of community service to so many areas of society, including community health care, heritage and arts, environment conservation, emergency services, education, social justice and sports. NVW provides a platform to pay tribute to these volunteers who donate their time and energy to help others.

PETER KEARNEY IN CONCERT

'We Are God's Family' - with the Our Holy Redeemer School Choir. SURREY HILLS - Thursday May 20th, 7.30pm at Our Holy Redeemer Hall, enter from York St., Surrey Hills. \$15 per family.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISHES—SUNDAY MAY 30 AT 12.30PM IN ST CLARE'S HALL SAUSAGE SIZZLE FROM 11.30AM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Fr Anthoni would like to inform parishioners that Liz Clark has tendered her resignation as Pastoral Associate, with effect from 16 July 2010. Father is working with the Parish Pastoral Council to fill this position.

PRAYER GROUP

Each Tuesday - 3.00-3.30pm in SFX church, you are invited to join a group of school parents & parishioners as we pray for the needs & concerns of our world, our families, our parish & school.
Parents are encouraged to arrive early for school pick up, & spend a short time in prayer.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

The next international World Youth Day will be held in Madrid, Spain in August 2011. It will be held in the middle of the Spanish summer, attended by an estimated two million pilgrims and organised in a uniquely European manner!

Travelling with the official Melbourne Pilgrimage Group

WYD2011 will be quite a different experience to the previous World Youth Day in Sydney, for both pilgrims and coordinators. As a result, the Archdiocese will be investing significant resources to ensure that we can provide a safe, spiritual and successful journey to WYD. An official Melbourne pilgrimage group is being organised to provide pilgrims with a cost-efficient and safe journey to World Youth Day. Annaliese Wursthorn has been appointed the WYD Coordinator and will work within the Archdiocesan Office for Youth team to develop suitable pilgrimage options for those travelling from the Melbourne Archdiocese. To contact her, phone (03) 9412 3326 or email wyd2011@cam.org.au OR annaliese.wursthorn@cam.org.au

A NEW SERIES: 'MARY MACKILLOP - AN AUSTRALIAN LIKE US - NO 6

While in Penola, Mary MacKillop met the Pastor of that vast district, Julian Edmund Tenison Woods (English priest, scholar and scientist). Vitally interested in education, he opened a school, but four years later he wrote to Mary in Portland, it 'cannot be properly conducted until you come up yourself.' In 1866, therefore, Mary and Lexie set off by coach for Penola to join their other sister, Annie. Provided by Sr Marie White rsj of the Sisters of St Joseph - www.sosj.org.au. For further information, see www.marymackillop.org.au and www.cathnews.com.au

National eConference on Mary Tuesday 18 May

'Do not miss THIS GREAT FAITH OPPORTUNITY! Fr Frank Moloney will engage you as he shares his insights into Mary as disciple, woman and mother. It's free and will be fantastic. To find out more about this live webcast go to www.bbi.catholic.edu.au and register to win a pilgrimage for two to Italy with Harvest Travel in 2010.'

National Reconciliation Week 2010

will be held across Australia from 27 May to 3 June with the theme 'Reconciliation: Let's see it through!' "Reconciling is an active pursuit - it's about getting on with what's needed and what we know to get the results we all want, and that's a mixture of measures that target the body, the mind and the spirit." - Australian of the Year, Mick Dodson, National Press Club address, 17 February 2009.

My corner

We seem to have had a lot of funerals here in the past few months. Father Anthoni said to me one day recently "Don't stand still, or we'll bury you" It's all very well to joke, but for most people, funerals bring sadness and stress. For families—sometimes it's a shock, sometimes a relief. It can be the end of months and years of pain and struggle, or the graceful letting go of a person ready to meet God. Death can be an answer to prayer, a challenge, a tragedy; it can be peaceful or violent, waited for or sudden. It is almost always a sadness. It is inevitable for each of us. For the parish, we see so many good and faithful souls moving to their eternal reward. People are not forgotten though often sadly missed. Our parish history has been crafted by the dedication, faith and hard work of many. They have made a deep impression at so many levels—home, church, community.

On this feast of the Ascension, Samuel Johnson's words speak eloquently to me: "It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. The act of dying is not important, it last so short a time." We are reminded today of the life, the death, the resurrection and the glory of Jesus' ascension—of how he lived and how he died and how he now sits at the right hand of the Father. Death is not to be feared—it ends in glory. *Let us so live, therefore, that when we die, even the undertaker will not be sad.* (Mark Twain)

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

"BETTER SCHOOLS" FUNDRAISER AT FOREST HILL CHASE

It is time to "shop 'til you drop" for our school. FOREST HILL CHASE'S Better Schools Fundraiser: Forest Hill Chase is offering Schools the chance to share in cash and prizes simply by shopping there.

To support our school present receipts for anything and everything you buy at Forest Hill to the Customer Service Desk near Target, and SFX will earn 1 point for every \$1 spent. There is also a box in the SFX church porch where you can place your receipts if you are unable to drop them in at Forest Hill personally.

If you shop on a Tuesday you earn double points at all retailers, whilst every \$1 spent at any fresh food retailer will also earn double points each and every day !!

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School Office is open from 8.30am - 4.00pm Monday to Friday during school term. Tours of the School are held on the following dates. The tours are for approx. 1 hour. Please meet at the school office by 9.10am. Mondays @ 9.15am—24 May, 19 July, 9 August, 6 September, 11 October.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

(May 16 – May 23) 'You are witnesses of these things' (Luke 24:48)

In 2010, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be marked between May 16 – May 23, concluding on Pentecost Sunday. During this time we have a wonderful opportunity to renew and deepen our relationships in the one God in whom we share together through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. This year's theme is 'You are witnesses of these things' (Luke 24:48) and a variety of resources and links can be found below to assist Australians in joining more effectively in that great wave of prayer begun by Jesus himself when he prayed 'that they may all be one... so that the world may believe' (John 17:21).

Some simple Prayer points:

- * Give thanks for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for our unity in prayer with Christians all across the world
- * Give thanks for the witness of the Church
- * Give thanks for all those who work for reconciliation between peoples and the healing of the earth
- * Pray for the national & state ecumenical bodies in Australia, for the World Council of Churches, the Global Christian Forum and other global networks
- * Pray for the unity of all Christians, in our local community and further afield

BREAKFAST AT THE TUDOR

Speaker: Elizabeth Kendal, International religious liberty analyst & advocate. "Religious Liberty: where did it come from & where is it going?" Thursday May 20 at 7am-8.45am at 1101 Whitehorse Rd. Cost \$27 (Conc \$22). Phone Barrie on 9877 1971.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—May 23

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm E&A Fabian, E Clark, F Neyland
D Williamsz
8.00am J Reid, S Carney
10.00am E Kimmet, C Chin, I Abraham,
M Ferdinando, R Paul, M Hughes,
M Blundy

5.00pm M T Francisco

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm L Norton, M Rossely
8.00am F Neyland
10.00am M Robotham, S hengeveld
5.00pm M Waring, L Sanelli

Welcomers

6.00pm RCIA TEAM
10.00am VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!

Children's Liturgy

May 23—Pentecost Sunday—Group C
May 30—Trinity Sunday—Group A

Altar Linen

May 16 M Cahill
May 23 W Tan

Counters

May 16 P Eng & H H Yeoh
May 23 R&Y Roy

Collectors 5pm

May 16 L Soulsby
May 23 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

May 16—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St, BHN
May 23—J&W Burrows, 11 Taldra St, BHN

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

May 16 G Tabacchiera
May 23 D Amato

Lettori

May 16 N Pozzobon, J Amato
May 23 A Lanza, S Faulisi

Ministri dell'Eucarista

May 16 M Casamento, M Salamone
May 23 D Amato, G Massarotti

ST CLARE'S—MAY 23

Ministers of the Word

9.00am—J Sakowski, M Clark, P Sakowski

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am—J Murphy, D Tan, P O'Brien,
A McGovern, D Wolbers, P Wolbers,
P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—May 23

9.00am—Farry family

POINTS TO PONDER

- ✦ *'You are witnesses to this.' Try to define what it is which you are called to give witness to. In what ways can you attest to the truth of that.*

From Fr Ben

*The day, water, sun, moon, night—
I do not have to purchase these things
with money.
Titus Maccius Plautus
254—184BC, Roman Playwright*

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.