



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

*In the care of the  
Franciscan Friars*

## Baptism of the Lord January 11th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

### Entrance Antiphon

When the Lord had been baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit came down like a dove to rest on him. Then the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with him I am well pleased.

### Psalm Response

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus approaching him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God. This is he of whom John said: I have seen and have given witness that this is the Son of God.

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**SFX Parish Office is closed until  
Wednesday January 14.**

***Urgent messages can be left on  
the answering machine & one  
of the friars will respond as  
soon as possible.***

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM POPE BENEDICT

"Even non-believers perceive something extraordinary and transcendental, something intimate that touches our hearts in this yearly Christian event. It is the festivity that sings of the gift of life. The birth of a child should always be a joyful occurrence".

"Actually the difficulties, uncertainty, and the economic crisis that many families are living in these months, and which affects all humanity, can truly serve as a stimulus for rediscovering the warmth of the simplicity, friendship, and solidarity that are the typical values of Christmas.... the message of hope that emanates from the mystery of Christ's birth".

"We know that Christmas celebrates the central event of history: the Incarnation of the Divine Word for the redemption of humanity. In the darkness of the night in Bethlehem a great light was lit: the Creator of the universe became flesh, indissolubly and eternally joining himself to human nature, to the point of being 'God from God, light from light' and at the same time truly human."

"Christmas is the privileged opportunity to contemplate the meaning and value of our existence. The nearness of this solemnity helps us to reflect, on the one hand, on the dramatic nature of a history in which human beings, wounded by sin, are perennially seeking happiness and a reason for living and dying; on the other hand, it exhorts us to contemplate the merciful goodness of God, who has come to meet humanity that He might communicate the saving Truth to us directly and make us to participate in His friendship and His life".

*Excerpts from a talk given by  
Benedict XVI on 17 December 2008*

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This newsletter also available  
at: [www.scsfx.org.au](http://www.scsfx.org.au)

### READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

#### BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**Is 55:1-11**

*Come to the waters; listen to my words and you shall have life.*

**1 Jn 5:1-9**

*The Spirit, the water and the blood give witness.*

**Mk 1:7-11**

*You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

#### **Monday**

Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20

#### **Tuesday**

Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28

#### **Wednesday**

Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39

#### **Thursday**

Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45

#### **Friday**

Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12

#### **Saturday—St Anthony, abbot**

Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17

### NEXT SUNDAY

**2nd SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

**1 Sam 3:3-10, 19**

**1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20**

**Jn 1:35-42**

**BAPTISM**

## 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               | <i>Liz Clark</i>      |
| Veronika Bellis         | <i>Dianna Hardy</i>   |
| Vince Fazio             | <i>Carmel Purdey</i>  |
| Anthony Kennedy         | <i>Monique Waring</i> |
| Peter Leonard           |                       |
| Trish Nicholson (Chair) |                       |

**Next meeting : 5 February 2009**

## Liturgy Times—

**PLEASE NOTE NEW TIMES**

### St Clare's

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>             | <b>9.00am</b>     |
| <b>Weekdays:</b>          |                   |
| <b>Wed, Fri &amp; Sat</b> | <b>9.00 am</b>    |
| <b>Confessions Sat</b>    | <b>9.30—10 am</b> |

### St Francis Xavier's

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Saturday Vigil</b> | <b>6.00 pm</b>  |
| <b>Sunday</b>         | <b>8.00 am</b>  |
|                       | <b>10.00am</b>  |
| <b>(Italian)</b>      | <b>11.30 am</b> |
|                       | <b>5.00 pm</b>  |

**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

## THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

God loved the world into being. Thus began the history of salvation and the journey of humanity as part of a God-created web of life. Scriptural writers proclaimed creation 'good', teaching that earth, sea and sky and every living thing declared the glory of God. St Thomas Aquinas later taught that the diversity of creation more completely shows forth the full goodness of God.

As the conscious part of creation, humans read 'the book of nature' and learn, says Job (12:7) a theme expanded by St Bonaventure who described the universe as being like a book reflecting, representing and describing its maker. Jesus used nature parables to teach about humility before God's gifts—the birds of the air are fed and the lily is adorned with beauty (Lk 12:24, 27).

Today, our world is dominated by economic exploitation where both people and the natural world suffer.

The followers of Jesus are called to stand with those fighting to save old growth forests, with the farmer creating a wildlife corridor or with the scientist researching sustainable technologies. Their willingness to safeguard the integrity of creation cannot but honour God. Pope John Paul II has called all humanity to recognize this need for an 'ecological conversion'.

The path of environmental abuse in our world today is not inevitable. Let us think in terms of the consequences of our decisions and actions. When oil is poured down a sink, where does it go? When a paper is tossed from the window of car, where does it end up? When litter finds its way to the ocean, what animals may be harmed? When celebrating, what happens to the balloons that are let float into the atmosphere?

In Australia, we have choices about the style of our houses, the way we farm, our means of transport and our consumerist lifestyle. The consequences have a global dimension. Our high use of fossil fuels increased global warming which directly threatens the homes and health of people living on low lying Pacific islands.

People of faith must understand ecological complexities but crying "Lord! Lord!" is not enough. Our behaviour must change. We need to consider the world we hand on to our children and grandchildren. Green development can be our new mission and a pathway to God.

### Catholic Social Teaching Principle:

Ecological Responsibility: Both Earth and humanity must be in partnership with each other for their mutual survival.

### Earth Charter Principle 5

Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's Ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.

## ROSTERS

### ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

**DURING THE DECEMBER/JANUARY BREAK,  
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION &  
MINISTERS OF THE WORD ARE REQUESTED TO  
VOLUNTEER AT MASSES AS REQUIRED**

### Altar Linen

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| January 11 | Mary Rossely |
| January 18 | Faye Neyland |

### Counters

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| January 11 | B&M Walker |
| January 18 | R&Y Roy    |

### Collectors 5pm

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| January 11 | I Mahlstedt |
| January 18 | P Aldag     |

### Rosary Statue

Month of January—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St

### ITALIAN MASS

#### Commentator

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| January 11 | G Amato       |
| January 18 | G Tabacchiera |

#### Lettori

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| January 11 | R Bidinost, C Gibillini |
| January 18 | A Dinardo, A Basile     |

#### Ministri dell'Eucarista

|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| January 11 | C Chessari, G Massarotti |
| January 18 | D Amato, G Tabacchiera   |

### ST CLARE'S—JANUARY 18

#### Ministers of the Word

9.00am J Sakowski, M Hardy, P Sakowski

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am T Nicholson, D Wolbers, P Wolbers  
H Keown, D Hardy, P Ciccotosto

#### Piety Stall—January 18

9.00am Glass family

**PARISH WALKING GROUP  
WALKS RESUMES THIS  
SATURDAY 17 JANUARY - WITH AN  
EARLIER STARTING TIME.  
WE WILL MEET AT SFX PARISH  
HOUSE AT 8.30AM.**

**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.**

## My corner

On December 21, my grand daughter, Caitlin, was baptised at St Francis Xavier's. There had been a long wait, as her godparents were living in London, but finally they were home and she could be officially welcomed into the church. I was sad to note that she was unable to wear our family christening robe, which has been in my family for about 130 years. She was just too big - and walking - and would probably have torn the delicate fabric to shreds with her exuberance and energy. The dress was made for little babies who were brought to the church at 2 or 3 weeks of age for Baptism, and there has been a succession of older babies in recent years who have been unable to fit the dress. It says something about modern life, I think. What it also says about modern living is that parents still come to the church seeking Baptism, that they see it as important for their child to belong in a Christian community, and that their hopes for their children still centre on the words that Jesus heard at his baptism "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." The sure knowledge that God's favour is with their child, that God loves and cares for each child gives parents a sense of blessing, support and approval. As a community, we are challenged to continue to offer love and support to all those who come seeking baptism, searching for a relationship with God. This year, may our parish continue to live out its mission statement in the ways we reach out to others and offer hospitality and service.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*