



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

*In the care of the  
Franciscan Friars*

## Baptism of the Lord January 10th, 2010—Year C

**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

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 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 week**

*Each day this week, take some time alone to pray; listen to the voice from 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.

### **Sons and daughters of God**

Into the water of the Jordan  
Jesus descended,  
as he had descended from heaven to earth,  
as he would later descend to the underworld;

He entered fully into the depths of the river, into  
the depths of humanity,  
into everything that is human  
and then he heard the words of God  
*You are my Son, the Beloved.*

A big moment for Jesus,  
a moment when he knew God was with him,  
that he was loved  
and was on the path of God.

Moments like when we knew  
we were loved by God,  
on a mountain walk,  
a stroll by the sea,  
a time of prayer,  
a conversation with a friend,  
a time when we knew  
we were helping someone,  
times when we have plunged into the depths  
and discovered the love of God.

Moments like illness and bereavement,  
anxiety about a child or a parent,  
staying with some one in times of trouble:  
then we have discovered something  
not always seen or heard,  
a faith born from the depths  
of our human experience  
that we are sons and daughters of God.

In entering human life fully  
we find the presence of the Divine,  
for all that is human is created by God,  
and in human love, compassion,  
endurance and care,  
we find God's dwelling-place,  
and we know our home is with him.

*-Donal Neary SJ*

### **Parish of St Francis Xavier**

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**SFX Primary School** 9890 1108  
[www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au)

### **Parish of St Clare**

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email: [sfbxh@celestial.com.au](mailto:sfbxh@celestial.com.au)

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

### **READINGS FOR THIS WEEK**

#### **BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**Is 40:1-5, 9-11**

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it.*

**Tits 2:11-14, 3:4-7**

*He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit.*

**Lk 3:15-16, 21-22**

*When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him.*

**Monday**

Sam 1:1-8; Mk 1:14-20

**Tuesday**

1 Sam 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday**

1 Sam 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday**

1 Sam 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday**

1 Sam 8:4-7, 10-22; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday**

1 Sam 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1;  
Mk 2:13-17

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

**2nd SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

**Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11;  
Jn 2:1-11**

### 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:

**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 : 4 February 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

'You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

'The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan is, then, not only an epiphany or revelation of Jesus himself as he is affirmed by his Heavenly Father and by the Holy Spirit. It inaugurates a prolonged season of epiphany – those years of the public ministry when every word and every gesture of Jesus was a revelation of God. The way Jesus handled each and every situation in which he found himself was an epiphany of what it meant for God to live out his life in our world as one of us.'

*Excerpt from a homily by Fr Peter Clarke OP*



### My corner

One of the courses I studied at YTU included a film of a baptism by immersion. Never have I seen such an energetic sacramental sign. Pouring water has nothing on plunging! The priest in the film stood knee deep in the immersion font, welcomed each new candidate, and I thought, almost violently pushed them down into the water, from which they emerged spluttering and dripping wet. He not only did it once, but three times—it looked as if he really enjoyed himself, though I'm not so sure about the candidates! There followed much embracing and songs of joy—everyone seemed to be wet but happy. [I'm wondering if we should consider an immersion font in the church here—can you imagine the chaos?] On thinking about Jesus' baptism, I imagine it was probably also a rather messy business—river mud included. And although there would have been no sponsors or community to celebrate this event, Jesus was blessed with the presence of his Father and the Holy Spirit, and heard the words he needed to give him the courage to begin his mission of spreading the news of the Kingdom. When we consider our own baptism, it probably wasn't so messy, and we wouldn't have heard God's voice. We probably don't even remember it. Yet it too was the beginning of our journey of faith, one that would open up all the possibilities of a relationship with God, a caring community, and the certainty of God's presence with us always.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

**SFX Parish Office is closed until Wednesday January 20.**  
***Urgent messages only may be left on the answering machine & one of the friars will respond as soon as possible.***

### ROSTERS

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

### ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S

#### Altar Linen

January 10 E Vogel  
January 17 O Rewega

#### Counters

January 10 B&C Parsons  
January 17 J Reid, M Rossely

#### Collectors 5pm

January 10 P Aldag  
January 17 A Cutts

#### Rosary Statue

Month of January—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St

#### ITALIAN MASS

#### Commentator

January 10 J Adamo  
January 17 P Grech

#### Lettori

January 10 N Pozzobon, A D'Alessandro  
January 17 J Adamo, C Ingrosso

#### Ministri dell'Eucarista

January 10 M Salamone, M Casamento  
January 17 D Amato, M Salamone

#### ST CLARE'S—Piety Stall—January 10

9.00am A Lindsey

### PARISH WALKING GROUP

Walks will resume for 2010 on Saturday 30 January. Meet at SFX Parish House at 9.00am.



### POINTS TO PONDER

- ✦ How strong is your own sense of being 'beloved' & 'favoured' by God?
- ✦ How much time do you spend alone 'at prayer'?

**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.**