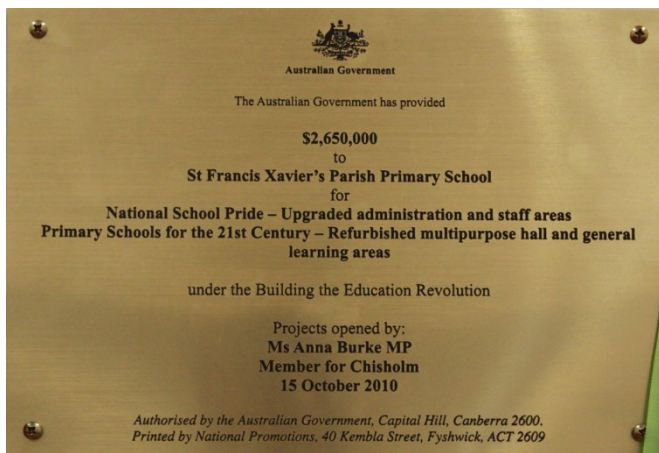


# Parishes of St Francis Xavier and St Clare

## BOX HILL BUZZ -- NEWSLETTER

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition – December 2010

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our Parish Newsletter. So much has happened during these past few months, in the parish and at the school...the official opening of the St Clare building by Anna Burke MP in October, Cultural Day in September and the School Fair in October. And not least of all, the changes to our Parishes to take effect in 2011. Let us begin with the Official Opening...



Carmel Purdey spoke at length about the history of the building and the long road to completion of the work. Reproduced here, for those were unable to attend the ceremony is Carmel's opening address...

"Bishop Tomlinson, Anna Burke, invited guests, boys and girls and member of our community, today is a truly exciting day for us all. We have with us Bishop Tomlinson...Bishop, it must give you great pleasure to attend these opening ceremonies as one of the many roles you have is that of secretary of the Roman Catholic Trust which administers all parish buildings in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

And we have with us Anna Burke representing the Australian Government. Anna, Fr Anthoni often tells me that you are a great friend to the community. That is possibly the best compliment that could be paid to any member of parliament...to be a friend to the community which you serve. We are here to ask God's blessing on our new buildings, to recognise the Australian Government funding of the refurbishment

and to open our St Clare building. It's a multi-purpose ceremony. The original stone of this building was first laid and opened by Archbishop Daniel Mannix in March 1929, 81 years ago and today 81 years later, we are writing yet another chapter in the history of this parish and its school. It is significant that in this refurbishment we have re-opened the original doors onto Whitehorse Rd. I think there is a great symbolism in that.

We reflect on the parish communities of the past whose work we bear the fruit of today. They left the legacy of this lovely old building which we have now been able to refurbish, to revitalise and to renew. There are many wonderful stories of the old days and the dances which were held in this hall. Recently I heard about one married couple who first met at a dance in this hall in the 1960s. I am sure if the walls could talk, the stories together would make a bestseller.

Today we are privileged to have with us many of the sisters of Our Lady of Sion. The sisters staffed the school for many years and can tell great stories about its history. We are delighted that you are with us today sisters. In honour of the work done by the sisters we are officially naming the upstairs classrooms and the two downstairs classrooms in this original building – The Sion SFX Building.

We pay tribute to the diocesan clergy of Melbourne who cared for this parish until 1974. We thank God for the Franciscan friars who have cared for the parish since 1975. We are delighted to be joined by the friars today"

*Carmel Purdy*

Carmel then briefly outlined how the Major Works Committee first met in 2004 for



the purpose of planning the redevelopment of the site, through to completion of the project and ended with acknowledging all who played a part in the project from workers on site to students and staff for their patience.

Anna Burke was then called upon and gave an engaging address before officially unveiling the plaque with Bishop Tomlinson.



*Bishop Tomlinson and Anna Burke*

Fr. Anthoni then introduced Bishop Tomlinson...

“We have gathered here today as a Parish community to celebrate the official opening of the St Clare Building and the refurbishment of the original administration, learning and teaching areas and the Parish Hall. We are fortunate to have many special guests to help us celebrate this special occasion, in particular Bishop Les Tomlinson who will bless our new buildings.



*Fr. Anthoni*

vibrant teaching and learning spaces.”

After his greeting, Bishop Tomlinson read that beautiful passage from Mark 10:13-16.

*“And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, But the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; Do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to*

*you, Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.*

Prayers were then followed by Bishop Tomlinson’s blessing of the buildings...

“My dear friends, let us pray to the all-knowing God, who is Lord, that all who gather here seeking instruction and right moral guidance may hear Christ, their Teacher, in his Gospel and receive the inner instruction of the Holy Spirit.

Lord God almighty, in your kindness hear our prayers. We dedicate these buildings to the education of young people and to the fulfilment of the whole person. Make these learning spaces become centres where students and teachers will search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life and strive wholeheartedly to stand by Christ as their teacher, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

We ask you now to bless us and all who will use these new teaching and learning spaces. May all who come here know the presence of Christ, and experience the joy of his friendship, and grow in his love.”



*Bishop Tomlinson*

At the conclusion, flowers were presented to Anna Burke and the children returned to their classrooms. Photos were taken with the Official Party and guests were shown around the refurbished facility and later enjoyed after tea.



*L-R Bishop Tomlinson, Anna Burke, Carmel Purdey, Fr Anthoni*

Photo gallery...

Official opening of  
Buildings



## NEW APPOINTMENTS & CHANGES FOR 2011

**Fr Peter McGrath** ofm has been appointed as the new Parish Priest, **Fr Peter Tran** ofm as Parish Assistant.

**Fr Ben Clowes** is retiring to Kedron, QLD. **Fr Bob Matthews** will remain living and ministering here.

**Fr Anthoni** will be on Sabbatical overseas from mid 2011.

The friar's community will consist of **Frs. Peter McGrath, Peter Tran, Peter Cantwell** and **Bob Matthews**.

# Cultural Day at St Francis Xavier

School was celebrated on 10th September and was an overwhelming success. It began with a beautiful paralyurgy in the new hall which was led by Fr. Anthoni. Many thanks to that fabulous group of parents who organised and led such a variety of activities.....from Germany, India, China and Greece. The parish is truly blessed to have so many different cultures; the blessings were indeed abundant on Cultural Day.

## Germany

In the German room the children played a game where they used



chocolates or marshmallows for counters. If they landed on a certain space they ate all the counters.

Certainly a hit with the children.

## India

In India the children had a dye called Henna placed on their skin, which, when left for awhile would leave a pattern when taken off. It is body art and used for special occasions. They also cooked chickpea noodles that were delicious and crunchy.



## China

In China the children sat on the floor and sang Chinese songs, they found it quite hard, but were rewarded when they went to the Masterchef kitchen and ate delicious Chinese food. They also wrote Chinese characters such as numbers, elements and sizes.



## Greece

In Greece, the children learnt about Greek Easter. They enjoyed candle making with Steffi Kontos and also made worry beads.



# St Francis Xavier School Fair

was celebrated on 13th November. As part of the Parish Pastoral Council's contribution to the Fair, a raffle was organised by the PPC members and supported by the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier, with tickets being sold before and after mass.

Prizes were donated by various local businesses and individuals and the PPC reiterates its deep appreciation for their generosity and support. Prizes included a Bunnings Gift Voucher, Woolworths Voucher, Donvale Florist Voucher and a Movie Membership for 1 year. We encourage all parishioners to support these businesses whenever possible.

Despite the weather, many raffle tickets were sold on the day, making it a genuine partnership between the parishes and the school. Approximately \$2,100 was raised by the raffle and it will make a valuable contribution to improve infrastructure at the School and to the East Timor project, which is supported by both St Francis Xavier and St Clare's parishes.

A particular note of thanks needs to be extended to Breta Cohen who played an active role in co-ordinating the raffle and indeed to all those who purchased tickets in the PPC School Fair raffle.

**And Finally, from all of us to all of you.....**

**We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year  
A stocking full of presents  
And a day full of cheer.....**

The Parish Pastoral Council invites parishioners to submit items for the next newsletter.

Please forward articles/photos to

[boxhillbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:boxhillbuzz@gmail.com)

by 28 February 2011.

All contributions will be considered, but may not necessarily be published due to size limitations. The PPC also welcomes suggestions for articles.