



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

Epiphany of the Lord January 3rd, 2010—Year C

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship
is his, and government and power.

Psalm Response

Lord, every nation on earth will adore
you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We have seen his
star in the East; and have come to
adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the east, and
have come with gifts to adore the Lord.



This week

*"The sight of the star filled them
with delight." Share your own stories
of times of pure delight in your life.*

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.

'EMPTY HANDS'

'The magi gave the child Jesus
gifts of gold, frankincense and
myrrh. Why did they bring him
gifts? These gifts were not in
recognition of what he wanted but
of who he was. The gold was the
recognition of his kingship, the
frankincense of his priesthood and
the myrrh of the death that he
would die.'



'These gifts show not that the
child Jesus was needy but that we
are, who long for this priestly king
who gave his life for us. The magi
go to seek him with their bags full
of precious things, but more
importantly they depart with their
hands empty, and thus able to
receive the gift of all that Jesus is.'

'This Christmas most of us will
have given and received gifts. But
the heart of all these celebrations
is the one who needs no gifts from
us but is pure gift. His very being
is given to him by the Father from
all eternity, and he comes to give
himself to us in turn. To receive
that gift, then we too need empty
hands. We need to recognise that
God's fullness of life is what we
most deeply yearn for and create
a space to receive it.'

**Excerpt from a homily by
Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP**

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This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6
*The glory of the Lord shines
upon you.*
Eph 3:2-3, 5-6
*The revelation means that
pagans now share the same
inheritance, that they are parts of
the same body.*
Mt 2:1-12
*We have come from the East to
worship the king.*

Monday
1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday
1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday
1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday
1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22
Friday
1 Jn 5: 5-13; Lk 5: 12-16
Saturday
1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30

**NEXT SUNDAY
BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
Is 40:1-5, 9-11
Tits 2:11-14, 3:4-7
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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 : 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

'The meaning is very clear from the general context of Matthew's Gospel. God, in the person of Jesus, is reaching out to the whole world. More than that, the religious leaders of his own people, although clearly aware of where the Messiah would be born, made no effort whatever to investigate. Yet Bethlehem was "just down the road", so to speak, from Jerusalem.

'These pagan foreigners, on the other hand, went to great lengths to find the "King of the Jews" and "do him homage". As part of that homage they offered their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh: the gold to symbolise the kingship of Christ, the incense his divine nature, and the myrrh his redemptive suffering and death.

'All in all, today's feast is telling us that for God there are no foreigners, no outsiders. From his point of view, all are equally his beloved children. We all, whatever external physical or cultural differences there may be between us, belong to one single family which has one Father, "our" Father. It means that every one of us is a brother and sister to every-one else. There is no room for discrimination of any kind based on nationality, race, religion, class or occupation. There cannot be a single exception to this position.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Frank Doyle SJ

My corner

In the past, I have often thought how disappointed the wise men must have been to have made such an extraordinary journey only to arrive at a stable to find a newborn baby. Their hope was surely for something much more magnificent than this. Having brought gifts suitable for a king, would they have wondered what was the point of leaving them among the straw and dung and dirt? Would they have felt disillusioned, disheartened or plain fed up? Would they have questioned all their learning and wisdom? Would they have decided to choose new careers and move on? We don't know. During the past few months, I have been privileged to be with a number of beautiful newborn babies—my own grandson, and others who were coming for Baptism. Holding a child is to look at the promise of all things possible as you gaze into their faces, to see what the birth of a child does in changing a young man into a young father, is to know that God can give no greater gift to us. To hold a sleeping baby, watching each breathe, feeling the softness of skin (and hair - if they have any), certainly lifts me out of the mundane and into a sense of promise and hope and joy. So, maybe these wise men weren't so disappointed after all.....
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 3 W Tan
January 10 E Vogel

Counters

January 3 T&E O'Brien
January 10 B&C Parsons

Collectors 5pm

January 3 L Soulsby
January 10 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

Month of January—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

January 3 R Bidinost
January 10 J Adamo

Lettori

January 3 N Amato, R Bidinost
January 10 N Pozzobon, A D'Alessandro

Ministri dell'Eucarista

January 3 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera
January 10 M Salamone, M Casamento

ST CLARE'S—Piety Stall—January 10

9.00am P Green

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



POINTS TO PONDER

- ✦ **What is leading your journey towards Jesus?**
- ✦ **What gifts do you bring to Jesus?**

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.