



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

Holy Family December 28th, 2008—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds hastened to
Bethlehem, where they found Mary
and Joseph, and the baby lying in a
manger.

Psalms Response

The Lord remembers his covenant for
ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! In the past God spoke
to our fathers through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Communion

Antiphon

Our God has
appeared on
earth, and lived
among men.



This week

Offer assistance to a member of
your own or your parish family who
may be struggling.

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.

Sing to the Lord Jesus a New Year's song!

Give him the highest New Year honours:

Thank the Lord for the old year ended,
trust him at the dawning of the new.
Lift our faces to the midnight sky and rejoice!
Let the Southern Cross be our pilgrim sign.

Praise the Lord Jesus for the things that endure,
old things transcending the changing years:
the solid soil of our ancient land under our feet;
incessant seas that wash our shores
from Hobart to Darwin;
the morning sun rising on a familiar landscape;
the westerlies spinning windmills
or dispersing city smog;
after rains, the dry Centre blossoming in profusion;
trees on the Great Divide reaching tall for the sky;
your divine purpose brooding over Australia,
loving our land long before we shared it;
your divine mercy encircling every person,
speaking our names in a hundred different accents.
Among us the saving deeds of Jesus Christ -
the same yesterday, today and forever!

Praise the Lord Jesus for new possibilities being born
New lights that gleam on every horizon
The strengthening of faith and enlarging of
vision;
the fellowship of Christ in success or failure;
readiness to care for needy fellow-citizens—
the physically, socially or spiritually handicapped;
liberation from political and religious prejudice,
and a hearty commitment to the ways of Jesus;
the willingness to listen to the words of an
opponent; the courage to speak up when
cowards become dumb the chance to break idols of
possessions and position; worshipping the power
that is made perfect
in weakness;
discarding personal daydreams
for the dreams of our Lord —
the same yesterday, today and forever!

Sing to the Lord Jesus a New Year's song!

Give him the choicest of New Years honours:

As we greet one another with 'Happy New Year',
greet him as the Lord of every minute.
For his call will be renewed each morning,
and his peace shall be ours at close of every day.

Bruce D Prewer

Parish of St Francis Xavier
1087 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128

Telephone 9890 2231
Facsimile 9898 4392

email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au
www.scsfx.org.au

SFX Primary School 9890 1108
www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au

Parish of St Clare

138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129

Telephone/Fax 9898 5080
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

HOLY FAMILY

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3 *Jesus
Your own son shall be your heir.*

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 *Jesus &
The faith of Abraham, Sarah, and
Isaac.*

Lk 2:22-40 *was filled
The child grew to maturity, and
he was filled with wisdom.*

Monday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

Thursday—Mary, Mother of God

Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21

Friday

1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28

Saturday

1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34

NEXT SUNDAY EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

Mt 2:1-2

**HOLY
FAMILY**

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 *Liz Clark*
Veronika Bellis *Dianna Hardy*
Vince Fazio *Carmel Purdey*
Anthony Kennedy *Monique Waring*
Peter Leonard
Trish Nicholson (Chair)

Next meeting : 5 February 2009

Liturgy Times—

PLEASE NOTE NEW 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

ST CLARE'S **Thursday 1st January**
New Year's Day **Mass at 9.00am**

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S **Thursday 1st January**
New Year's Day **Mass at 12 Noon**
**(Followed by shared lunch - please bring a
plate)**

Prayer of Confession

*God, we confess that ours is still a world
in which Herod seems to rule:*

*the powerful are revered,
the visions of the wise are ignored,
the poor are afflicted,
and the innocent are killed.*

*You show us that salvations comes
in the vulnerability of a child,
yet we hunger for the "security"
of weapons and walls.*

*You teach us that freedom comes
in loving service,
yet we trample on others in our efforts
to be "free."*

*Forgive us, God, when we look to the palace
instead of the stable,
when we heed politicians more than prophets.
Renew us with the spirit of Bethlehem,
that we may be better prepared for your
coming. Amen.* *Keith Watkins*

My corner

Some reading I did last week left me thinking about the census in Bethlehem, and what it would have been like to have to travel back to where you were born to register your name. Imagine it happening these days—Australia would be almost empty! And imagine what it would have been like without modern transport—camels, donkeys, or a good pair of sandals. I would have to go all the way to East Melbourne—and I'd catch the tram.

What about you? In recent times I have gone past the house where I grew up as a child. It looks just the same, although the neighbourhood has gone somewhat up-market, and there is a mansion next door, replacing Lucy's old house. The creek we spent far too much time adventuring in is now covered in—you can't even tell it's there. And Aggie Jones' hedge where we climbed and hid has gone. My grand-father's house around the corner is looking very tired and dilapidated. There's no one left there that I know. Joseph and Mary were in that boat for their homecoming. No one to go to, and no room anywhere. What a home coming! I admire them hugely. They made the most of what they found, and in the most difficult of circumstances, Jesus was born. Imagine their wonder knowing that this was God who was born to them. I know a family who's daughter came home from her overseas trip with the news that she was pregnant, and estranged from the father. Imagine the surprise when this little boy was born—he is black-skinned, curly haired, the image of a man they had never met. That was quite a surprise for the family. But, they too have made the best of circumstances, and love this little boy dearly. Families are like that—open to all sorts of things. I hope that in the coming year, all your surprises will be happy and rewarding.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

**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.***

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

December 28 Lucy Sanelli
January 4 Bet Burns

Counters

December 28 T&E O'Brien
January 4 J Reid, M Rossely

Collectors 5pm

December 28 A Cutts
January 5 L Soulsby

Rosary Statue

December 28—M&L Soulsby, 7 Simpsons Rd
Month of January—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

December 28 J Adamo
January 4 P Grech

Lettori

December 28 V Peluso, N Tedone
January 4 N Pozzobon, A Lanza

Ministri dell'Eucarista

December 28 M Casamento, G Tabacchiera
January 4 R Bidinost, M Salamone

ST CLARE'S—JANUARY 4

Ministers of the Word

9.00am D Hayes, K McDonald, D Hard

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am I D'Amato, D Wolbers, P Wolbers
D Tan, P Ciccotosto, P O'Brien

Piety Stall—January 4

9.00am E Boyle

PARISH WALKING GROUP

Walks will resume for 2009 on
Saturday 17 January - with an earlier
starting time. We will meet at SFX
Parish House at 8.30am.

Would parishioners please note that it is preferable if Mass intentions are brought to the Parish House and entered into the diary kept for intentions.

This will avoid, as much as is possible, any disappointment, when 2 or more intentions are requested for the same Mass.

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.