

St Francis Xavier and St Clare.

New Year's Day 2012 - The Holy Mother of God.

From the book of Numbers

Num 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.' The word of the Lord.

Psalm (All) Ps 66:2-3.5.6.8

May God bless us in his mercy.

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

From the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

Gal 4:4-7

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation (All)

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

From the holy Gospel according to Luke

2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception. The Gospel of the Lord.

Gathering Hail, holy Mother, who gave birth to the King
who rules heaven and earth for ever

Acclamation When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.

PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER

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FRIARS OF THE PARISHES

PARISH PRIEST
FR PETER McGRATH OFM

ASSISTANT PRIESTS
FR BOB MATTHEWS OFM
FR PETER TRAN OFM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
SR MOIRA BRODERICK CSB

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

LITURGY TIMES
(FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2011 UNTIL
COMPLETION OF REFURBISHMENT OF SFX
CHURCH)

St Clare's
Sunday 9.30 am
Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 am
Confessions: Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's
Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday (Italian) 11.30 am
5.00 pm
Mon—Fri 12 noon
Confessions: Sat 4.00—5.00 pm

MARRIAGES

Bookings can be made with SFX Parish Office for each Parish, and celebrated in the church requested. This is to avoid double bookings.

BAPTISMS
(FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2011 UNTIL
COMPLETION OF REFURBISHMENT OF SFX
CHURCH)

Anyone wishing to have a child baptised should give four to six weeks notice, so that parents can attend a preparation course.

St Clare's—1st & 3rd Sundays only,
11.00 am

Please note that Parish Office Staff are on leave until Wednesday 18th January 2012 & the office will be closed until that time.
Urgent messages only may be left on the answering machine & one of the friars will respond if and when they are able.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2012 PARISH GROUP—Looking Ahead!
Children at State Schools or Youth at Catholic or State High Schools from Grade 6 through to Year 12 or Adults who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, 29th April 2012 in SFX Church, are requested to note our Parish Preparation Program dates – Mondays 20th, 27th February, 5th March, Tuesday 13th March (due to Labour Day Monday Holiday), Mondays 19th, 26th March / 16th, 23rd April. Program sessions are at SFX Parish House from 7pm – 8pm.
Any enquiries please contact Parish Office or Sr Moira 9890 2231. PLEASE NOTE: Due to this being a short preparation of 8 weeks and Easter holidays during that time, we will not be registering students after 27th February 2012 for the Confirmation Sacrament of 2012.

SACRAMENTS OF RECONCILIATION/ FIRST COMMUNION 2012
Parents of children from State Primary Schools or High Schools who wish to enrol their children in our parish program for 2012, please see the information set out below.

Registration & Information for these two sacraments: Monday, 5th March 2012 at 7pm in St Clare's Hall.

Program begins – Sunday 18th March 2012 - Mass Presentation of the children at 9.30am Mass in St Clare's Church.

Classes begin: Monday 19th March at 4pm to 5pm in St Clare's buildings.

The dates of the actual Sacramental Celebrations are: Tuesday 24th July 2012 at 7.30pm— Reconciliation
Sundays 5th August or 12th August 2012 at the 9.30am Mass in St Clare's Church.

Contact number – Parish Office 9890 2231 if wishing to clarify the above. All registrations are only taken at the March 5th 2012 evening meeting. No Late Registrations are possible.

PRAYER CHAIR
The need for regular prayer, both private and liturgical, in our day to day lives was a major emphasis of Pope Benedict's words at WYD08. To carry this forward, you might like to take home one of the yellow sheets at the back of the church, choose a favourite chair at home as your prayer-chair and place the sheet within easy reach of it. Slide into it from time to time during the coming week, take up this sheet and aided by the reflections think over again the words of the Gospel this week.

ROSTERS
DURING THE DECEMBER/JANUARY BREAK, EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION & MINISTERS OF THE WORD ARE REQUESTED TO VOLUNTEER AT MASSES AS REQUIRED.
ST FRANCIS XAVIER
Altar Linen—tba
Rosary Statue
Month of Jan—N Guinane, 65 Mersey St
ITALIAN MASS
Commentator
January 1 D Amato
January 8 R Bidinost
Lettori
January 1 A Lanza, S Faulisi
January 8 N Amato, R Bidinost
Ministri dell'Eucarista
January 1 D Amato, G Massarotti
January 8 R Bidinost, G Tabacchiera

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." - Luke 2:19
How lightly Mary held Jesus. She did not clutch Him to her but held Him out for the world to know. She knew that He did not belong to her alone. From the moment of His birth she was called upon to share Him with strangers who flocked to see Him. In the same way, we are also called to hold our blessings lightly, being willing to share what God has given to us with those whom God may lead to us. As this New Year begins, let us look to Mary as a grace-filled model of sharing all that God might ask of us.

FOR YOUR DIARY!
Please note—Lunar New Year Celebration for the Parish will be on Saturday January 28th 2012, with Mass at 6pm (normal weekend time) at ST CLARE'S CHURCH (no Mass at SFX that night), followed by a celebratory meal in St Clare's Hall. Details to follow.

The **AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will not be meeting again regularly until February 2, 2012; however, we plan to get together on Thursday, January 12 for lunch, at Box Hill RSL. We will meet after the noon mass; there will be transport for anyone who needs it. Please let Judy know if you will be coming. All parishioners, members of the Whitehorse Community and their friends are welcome at our activities. Information - Judy - 9878 4212.

DONATIONS OF TOYS AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHING needed for Samata Sarana, Kindigoda, Sri Lanka. Samata Sarana feeds over 500 people a day, runs a day care centre for single parents, a school for over 300 plus children who also receive breakfast and lunch, a day centre for the elderly who are also fed and sent home with dinner packets. **Please contact: Michelle on 9898 7021.**