



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

*In the care of the  
Franciscan Friars*

## St Francis of Assisi October 4th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

### Entrance Antiphon

Francis, a man of God, left his home and gave away his wealth to become poor and in need, but the Lord cared for him.

### Psalm Response

You are my inheritance, O Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

### This week

*Put particular effort into your own marriage or a significant relationship this week. In what ways can your love for another become a present representation of the love of God for all people?*

### 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.

### ORIGINS OF THE FRANCISCAN MOVEMENT 1209-2009

When Francis and his first companions went to see Pope Innocent III in 1209, they can have had only a slight idea of what they were beginning.

#### **The first Rule**

Francis and his companions had written in a few words, mostly gospel quotations and a few practical stipulations, what they wanted to be the basis of their way of life. Cardinal John had tried to persuade them to adopt a Rule from one of the older Orders but they had maintained, as Francis later wrote in his Testament that "no-one showed them what they must do but the Lord most high revealed to them the way they should live." The Pope too would fail to persuade the group to adopt an older Rule, but he gave them permission to do two things: to observe the way of life that they had proposed, and to preach penance.

#### **The gospel life**

The first aspect of the Franciscan vocation, then, is to live as witnesses to the power of the gospel. For Francis and his companions, it was blindingly obvious that to be witnesses to the power of the gospel one had to live in a way based as literally as possible on the example of Jesus and his companions, the apostles. So when they read: "Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for labourers deserve their food" (Mt 10:9-10), they did that literally.

#### **Simplicity and poverty**

Ours is not a way of life that relies on building up reserves of land and finances to assure that our needs are met, but one that looks to the brotherly and sisterly affection of our fellow friars and sisters, and of the Christian faithful for the provision of our needs. So poverty, or as Pope Innocent put it living sine proprio (without anything of our own), and fraternity, caring for the needs of our brothers and sisters, are two sides of the same Franciscan coin.

#### **The grace of our origins**

So this is a graced moment to reflect on how Franciscans live and evangelise:

- \* By a way of life committed to gospel principles
- \* By a selfless desire to use our talents for the glory of God without concern for recompense or reward
- \* And by a consistent preaching of God's word - a word that gives life.

Those features continue to underlie the Franciscan vocation to be an evangelizing fraternity. If we are faithful to them, then God will continue to be faithful to us and we will continue to be witnesses to his love in this land.

*Br Phillipe Yates ofm  
Woodford Green, UK, 23 April 2009*

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**www.scsfx.org.au**

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**This newsletter is also  
available on our website:  
www.scsfx.org.au**

### **READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

**Sir 50:1, 3-4, 6-7**

#### **Gal 6:14-18**

*Through him the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.*

#### **Mt 11:25-30**

*You have hidden these things from the learned and the clever, and revealed them to children.*

#### **Monday**

Jonah 1:1-2:1, 11; Lk 10:25-37

#### **Tuesday**

Jonah 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42

#### **Wednesday—Our Lady of the Rosary**

Jonah 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4

#### **Thursday**

Malachi 3:13-20; Lk 11:5-13

#### **Friday**

Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26

#### **Saturday**

Joel 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28

### **NEXT SUNDAY 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Wis 7:7-11;**

**Heb 4:12-13;**

**Mk 10:17-30**

### 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*  
Breta Cohen *Dianna Hardy*  
Ann-Marie Diggins *Carmel Purdey*  
Anthony Kennedy *Monique Waring*  
Peter Leonard

### Next meeting : 8 October

### 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

<b>SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER</b>	<b>10.30AM</b>	<b>COMBINED ENGLISH/ITALIAN MASS FOR FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI AT SFX</b> <b>BAPTISM AT SFX</b>
	<b>12.30PM</b>	
<b>MONDAY 5 OCTOBER</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>	<b>SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX</b> (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. <b>FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY IN ST CLARE'S CHURCH.</b> OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706
	<b>10.30AM</b>	
<b>TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER</b>	<b>12.45PM</b>	<b>LEGION OF MARY @ SFX</b> RCIA (SFX PHMR)
	<b>7.30PM</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER</b>	<b>8.30AM</b>	<b>TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY)</b> <b>PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S.</b> CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 OR TRUDY FRANKENSTEINER 9899 5252 <b>SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP</b> AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HOUSE <b>KSC</b> AT ST CLARE'S OLD HALL <b>MEDITATION GROUP</b> IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
	<b>9AM-11AM</b>	
	<b>10.30AM</b>	
	<b>1.30PM</b> <b>7.30PM</b>	
<b>THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER</b>	<b>1.30PM</b>	<b>AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—BINGO</b> IN SFX PARISH HOUSE <b>PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL</b>
	<b>7.30PM</b>	
<b>FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER</b>	<b>5-6.30PM</b>	<b>LADIES DRINKS</b> AT BLACK BURN HOTEL <b>BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP</b> IN SFX PHMR
	<b>7.30PM-9.00PM</b>	
<b>SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>	<b>PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET</b> AT SFX PARISH HOUSE. <b>WEDDING AT SFX</b>
	<b>2.00PM</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER</b>	<b>10.00AM</b>	<b>GRADE 6 FAMILY MASS AT SFX</b>

### AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

**October 8**—Bingo at 1.30pm in SFX Parish House Meeting Room. Anyone attending Midday Mass may have lunch in the meeting room prior to BINGO.

**October 15**—Video afternoon at 1.30pm in SFX Parish House Meeting Room.

**Saturday, October 10**, is the anniversary of the passing of the infamous Bill, decriminalising abortion in Victoria. All the pro-life groups, who worked so hard to try to defeat this bill, are planning a **MARCH FOR THE BABIES WHO NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY**. This will begin at 10.45 am. at the FITZROY Gardens, at the corner of Lansdowne Street and Wellington Parade. PLEASE NOTE - the venue has been changed since the last announcement. It will end at 1.00 pm. Please join us, to show the politicians and the community, that there are still large numbers of people who believe that abortion is bad for our community, causing a great many problems and solving none. Enquiries: 9387 7098.

### Advance Notice Re: Anniversary of the Abortion Law Reform Bill

The Parishes of the Archdiocese of Melbourne will be asked to join with His Grace, Archbishop Denis J. Hart in marking the Anniversary of the Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008 on **Sunday 25th October 2009**. Archbishop Hart will celebrate Mass at St Patrick's at 11.00am followed by a Prayer Service at 12.30pm in the Cathedral. All Melbourne parishes are asked to join His Grace in praying for an end to abortion. How can you make a difference? Hear Australia's most inspiring speakers at 2.00pm at the Cardinal Knox Centre, East Melbourne. For further information, please contact Marcia Riordan from the Respect Life Office: email [mriordan@jp2institute.org](mailto:mriordan@jp2institute.org)

**FRANCIS & CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY** will meet in St Clare's Church for the 1st two weeks of next term (Monday 5th & 12th), during the Deakin University exam period.

### LOSS & GRIEF SEMINARS

For those who have booked, the Loss & Grief Seminars to be conducted by Tobin Brothers begin in the SFX Parish House Meeting Room on Wednesday 7th October (1pm-3pm).

### One Minute Sermons

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.  
The one who kneels before God can stand before anyone!  
Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.  
Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it.  
Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.  
Prayer: Don't give God instructions - just report for duty!  
We set the sail; God makes the wind.  
Wisdom has two parts:  
1) Having a lot to say. 2) Not saying it.

### What the mundane can reveal

*"Spirituality is a growing intimacy with God experienced through persons, places, events and things in everyday life."* The definition refers to intimacy with God. Intimacy is about the 'deepest things'. The definition clues us in to look for the presence of God within the persons, places, events, and things which surround us, within the milieu in which we live. God uses all of the seemingly mundane realities around us to teach us about ourselves, our relationships, and our God.' *'Organic Spirituality' by Nicki Verploegen Vandergriff*

## THE LIFE OF FRANCIS-Francis and Peace Peace within the Community

Francis called his community the Friars Minor or "Lesser Brothers"; thus, they were to be "related" or connected to one another as "brothers" of the same family and they were to be humble and unpretentious. No single Friar was to be "better" than another, no matter what roles they fulfilled. *"I did not come to serve but to serve", says the Lord. Those who are placed over others should glory in such an office only as much as they would, were they assigned the task of washing the feet of the Brothers.*"  
Admonition 4

For Francis, this is at the root of peace: the peace-making example of Jesus Christ. Jesus, who ultimately laid down his life that all would be reconciled. The genuine peace-maker cannot afford to have vested interests. A Friar is eminently positioned to become a peace-maker, as he does not own property/ has no material assets to protect and is thus free to mediate peace amongst others. This is a peace that is born out of the recognition the bonds that unite, rather than divide. One of his close companions wrote about Francis *"In all his preaching, before he proposed the Word of God to those gathered about, he prayed first for peace for them. And many embraced peace and became seekers after eternal salvation."*

In the Rule of Life given to the Friars, Francis instructed the Friars with these words as they travel the world: *"Into whatever house they enter, let them first say: 'Peace be to this house!'"*

### My corner

After working in this parish for ten years, I think I should have a fairly good knowledge about St Francis. But when I came to write this today, my mind was blank. What more can I say that hasn't been said already?

The one thing that comes to mind is about Francis being told 'to build my church'. I love the fact that he physically did just that—stone by stone. The real message, as we know, was to rebuild the faith of the people of that time, by spreading the Good News and by the example Francis gave of living a gospel life. If we were told to 'build my church' today, what would we do? I must admit my mind immediately turns to the urgent need for renovations at SFX. Fr Anthony assures me that it won't be too long. But to rebuild the church here? I have a strong desire to make participation and involvement in the church more attractive to our youth and the young families of the parish. I would also like to see greater efforts to mend the many social injustices of our world. I would like my own children and their friends to understand what makes the church so attractive, and how it brings true meaning into my life. Would these things rebuild the church? Maybe. I need to look more closely at Francis' life, and see how he began his rebuilding program.

*Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

## ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

(11 – 17 October 2009)

was established in Australia as an expansion of the UN's annual International Anti-Poverty Day on October 17.

The main aims of Anti-Poverty Week are to: a) strengthen public understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia; b) encourage research, discussion and action to address these problems, including action by individuals, communities, organisations and governments. help fight poverty & hardship Poverty and severe hardship affect more than a million Australians. Around the world more than a billion people are desperately poor. In Anti-Poverty Week help fight poverty and hardship. [www.antipovertyweek.org.au](http://www.antipovertyweek.org.au), email [apw@antipovertyweek.org.au](mailto:apw@antipovertyweek.org.au) or call 1300 797 290.

With several crises happening simultaneously over the last five days Caritas Australia have decided to open an overall appeal called the **Communities in Crisis: Asia-Pacific Appeal**. This means that any funds raised will be directed to the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) to be used in emergency responses to all areas the countries affected. Others may want to make a specific donation to support their country of origin or interest.

The four different appeals are listed on the website – [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

- Communities in Crisis appeal – General Emergency Appeal to cover all areas
- South-East Asia Typhoon appeal – covers Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam
- Pacific Tsunami Appeal – covers Samoa and Tonga
- Indonesian Earthquake Appeal

### POINTS TO PONDER

- ★ *Examine your own understanding of right relationship between men & women. In what ways is this teaching a challenge to modern attitudes to marriage?*

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.

## ROSTERS

### ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—OCTOBER 11

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm E&A Fabian, J Wells  
8.00am S Carney  
10.00am V&G Mooney, G Augustin  
5.00pm P Aldag

#### Ministers of the Word

6.00pm P Tierney, E Colafella  
8.00am C Gately  
10.00am GRADE 6  
5.00pm K Ooi, L Soulsby

#### Welcomers

6.00pm M Rossely, G&J Metral  
10.00am Hangan family

#### Children's Liturgy

October 11—28th Sunday OT—Group B  
October 18—29th Sunday OT—Group C

#### Altar Linen

October 4 P Fitzgerald  
October 11 I Balchin

#### Counters

October 4 P Eng & H H Yeoh  
October 11 P McLaughlin, G Kitch

#### Collectors 5pm

October 4 A Cutts  
October 11 L Soulsby

#### Rosary Statue

October 4 - & 11—J Crummy, 15 William St

#### ITALIAN MASS

##### Commentator

October 11 G Amato  
October 18 J Adamo

##### Lettori

October 11 M Salamone, V Peluso  
October 11 N Pozzobon, A Lanza

##### Ministri dell'Eucaristia

October 11 G Massarotti, D Amato  
October 11 M Casamento, G Tabacchiera

### ST CLARE'S—OCTOBER 11

#### Ministers of the Word

9.00am K McMahon, M Clark, C Abiad

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am P O'Brien, H Keown, P Ciccatosto

#### Piety Stall—October 11

9.00am E Boyle

### CASUAL HOUSEKEEPER

Busy Family in Box Hill North needs casual housekeeper. Hours would be 12pm to 5pm daily, Monday to Friday. Duties would include Cooking, Cleaning, and Laundry with some child-minding. Would prefer a female - part-timer, retiree or student. Interested parties should contact Mrs T Byrne on 0425812325.

### ANY JOB REQUIRED

Reliable, honest, hardworking lady to do any kind of job including house & office cleaning. Was a Chemistry teacher before moving to Australia. Contact: Esther 0414 803 524.

### ANY JOB REQUIRED

Reliable, honest, hardworking student to do any kind of job including house & office cleaning. Was a statistical & financial analyst before moving to Australia. Contact: Toni 0420 635 563.

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

One person to share villa unit in Box Hill North, furnished, non-smoker, students welcome. Please call Helen 9899 0151.

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Young couple / overseas students are looking for budget accommodation. If you can help please call Vince Fazio on 9840 1248.