

Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

Triumph of the Cross September 14th, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through him we are saved and made free.

Psalm Response

Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself, says the Lord.

This week

Carry a small cross with you this week & contemplate the power of that saving act.



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.

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

It is believed that St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine while on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326, found a piece of the "True Cross" on September the fourteenth. The cross is remembered as an instrument of salvation, glory and life instead of torture and death. During the past couple of weeks my prayer time and reflection—meditation has been consumed with thoughts about the Decriminalisation of Abortion and the Large Hadron Collider (HLC), the \$9.6 billion machine that may help to unravel the mystery of the universe. Human beings are searching and looking for answers, but for us who believe in God the universe and our life are part of God's mystery. SBS's latest advertisement, six billion stories and counting... caught my attention; our salvation story too continues and is part of the Cross of Christ. Today's gospel reminds us, God gave up his Son through Incarnation and the Cross that the world might be saved. The reason for this is because God so loved the world. We are called to respond to Love.

Sometimes it is not easy to respond to God's call. We try to avoid pain, suffering, struggle and death if we can. Yet our world is full of stories of those who gave their lives for a good cause. The world never forgets that; and we know how the remembrance of one such cause, ANZAC day, has grown into such a big event. We are not glorifying war, but remembering all those who laid down their life in service.

As Christians we are part of the universe and as with those in the past, we in the present time have the responsibility towards the future.

Sometimes what seems difficult, painful, troublesome, and demanding can bring and will bring life to us and to the world. I fear that we are turning into "softies"; too worried about our own well-being and avoiding getting into trouble, or wallowing in our own comfortable little world. The universe is big and the mystery is still being fathomed. Human beings are a mystery too and we are discovering about ourselves and others all the time. Without embracing the Cross of Christ, we will never fully experience the glory of God. Never put the cart before the horse, no resurrection without a cross.

Fr Anthony ofm

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www.scsfx.org.au

St FX Primary School 9890 1108
www.sfxboxh.melb.catholic.edu.au

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138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
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email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS

Num 21:4-9

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

Phil 2:6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

Jn 3:13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Monday—Our Lady of Sorrows

Heb 5:7-9; Jn 19:25-27

(or Lk 2:33-35)

Tuesday—St Cornelius

1Cor12:12-14, 27-31; Lk 7:11-17

Wed

1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 7:31-35

Thursday

1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 7:36-50

Friday

1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3

Saturday—St Andrew Tae-gŏn

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15

NEXT SUNDAY

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 55:6-9

Phil 1:20-24, 27

Mt 20:1-16

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 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*
Clare Hangan *Monique Waring*
Anthony Kennedy
Peter Leonard
Trish Nicholson (Chair)
Next meeting : October 9

Liturgy Times

St Clare's

Sunday 8.30 am, 10.30am

Weekdays:

Wed, Fri & Sat 9.00 am

Confessions Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier's

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 7.30 am

9.30am

(Italian) 11.00 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

IN THE PARISHES THIS WEEK: [ALTAR LINEN ROSTERS ARE IN THE SACRISTY](#)

Sunday 14 September	MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
Monday 15 September 8.30am OUR LADY OF SORROWS 10.00am	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY IN ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL (CONTACT: THERESE 9878 3706)
Tuesday 16 September 12.45pm 7.30pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA ENQUIRY AT SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
Wednesday 17 September 8.30am 9.00am 12.30pm	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST). FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE
Thursday 18 September 12pm 3-3.30pm	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—NOON MASS & ANOINTING, FOLLOWED BY LUNCH @ 1PM AT THE "BUS TOP CAFÉ", LEVEL 1, CENTRO BOX HILL. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: MARG 9803 4973, PAT 9887 6790. PRAYERS IN SFX CHURCH
Friday 19 September 7.30pm-9pm	END SCHOOL TERM 3 BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 20 September 9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE—ALL WELCOME!

EAST TIMOR FUNDRAISER ECO PASTORAL PROJECT FRIENDSHIP/ FOOD/ FUN

PLEASE CONSIDER GATHERING A GROUP OF FRIENDS TOGETHER TO SHARE A MEAL AND DONATE TOWARDS OUR PARTNER PARISH'S ECO PASTORAL PROJECT. OUR AIM IS TO RAISE MONEY WHILE DEVELOPING COMMUNITY. PICK UP YOUR KIT FROM THE PARISH OFFICE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT **VAL MOONEY ON 9898 2602.**



PLEASE MARK DATE IN YOUR DIARY!
PARISH MEETING TO DISCUSS THE PLANS FOR SFX CHURCH RENOVATIONS
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH @ 10.45AM
IN SFX PARISH HALL
THE PLANS ARE CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY IN THE FOYER OF SFX CHURCH

ABORTION: Now is the time to act!

Although the Abortion Bill passed the Lower House, it actually went through with a smaller margin than expected (47 FOR & 35 AGAINST). The margin is expected to be even narrower in the Upper House. The fate of the Bill may be decided by 2 or 3 votes. We have 3 weeks before the Upper House debates the Bill. **We can still STOP this Bill from becoming law.**

Please note the **crucial undecided votes** listed on the noticeboards and make your views known. Also remember our representatives listed at the back of the newsletter (Atkinson, Dalla-Riva, Kronberg, Leane and Tee). A copy of the Bill is available at the back of the Church and information sheets are available as well.

There will be a "Mass in Reparation for Abortion" at St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday 27th Sept 2008 at 9:00am, celebrated by Fr John Dupuche.

Let's keep the letters and prayers going...
Tel Majella 9890 3857.

The Sisters of Our Lady of Sion invite you to a day of study & exchange on the Word of God.

ISAIAH'S MESSAGE TO A PEOPLE IN EXILE - Text & Content

Sunday 19th October from 9.30am—4pm

Our Lady of Sion College, 1065 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Presenters include: Paul Forgasz, Dept of Jewish Civilization, Monash University. \$20 includes Lunch. RSVP:

Sr Patricia Watson pwatson@netspace.net.au or Sr Mary Lotton lotton@netspace.net.au

The 2008 *Rerum Novarum* lecture will be delivered by Ms Claudette Werleigh at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 23rd September 2008** at the Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, E Melb. Claudette Werleigh is the current Secretary General of PAX CHRISTI International. Claudette is a former Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti. During a career that includes a period as Diplomat, extensive periods in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and Head of Caritas Haiti, Claudette has worked tirelessly for social justice. She helped found the women's league for women's empowerment. She is fluent in French, and Haitian, Creole, English and Spanish and has a good understanding of Portuguese. She is inspired by Christian values and spirituality. Claudette will speak on the topic of "**Peace building Initiatives in Africa**"

BREAKFAST AT THE TUDOR

Bill Muehlenberg (www.billmuehlenberg.com) speaking on 'A New Day in Australia'.

Thursday 18th September, 7am-8.30am.
1101 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Cost \$27.
RSVP Tuesday 16th September 9877 1971.

From Fr Ben We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the last of the human freedoms - To choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way - Viktor Frankl.

THANK YOU We are extremely grateful to our five catechists—Maureen, Esmé, Margaret, Margaret and Phil, who prepared the children so well for First Reconciliation and Eucharist over the past two terms. Enjoy your free Mondays!

St Francis Xavier School News

If you visited the school on Wednesday you would have been amazed to see the annual Celebration of Learning, set in days long gone. Teachers and students were dressed in long dresses, boots, ties and vests, and hats we haven't seen for a long time. Reverend Mother was even present. In Mrs Bennett's class, children were sitting at desks with slates and chalk in front of them, responses had to be instant, they certainly needed to know their catechism! A cane was used on those who could not respond to important questions. There were art activities with wooden pegs, glue, scissors and paper; games of skipping and quoits, a very basic tent-type classroom; the smell from cooking damper wafted around the playground. It was a day when the children had a great deal of fun, learnt to appreciate the comforts of modern day education. Congratulations to all the staff, and those wonderfully well-behaved children. And thank you God for the perfect day weatherwise.

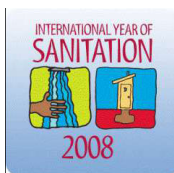
My corner

Today's first reading has lead me to reflect a little on what it takes to make us happy. The Israelites were released from slavery, but still complained to God about their new circumstances. People have been complaining for months about the weather, it's been cold.

Now when we have a few sunny days, I heard someone say that they were dreading summer, another person saying "where is the rain?" I've heard a lot of murmuring over the past few years about the state of the church at SFX—it needs painting, updating, new carpet. Now, finally, we have plans drawn up for something new and fresh, and there are a few people saying "where will we find the money, surely all this isn't necessary?"

I have an image in my mind of God getting up each day and hearing one group of people asking for rain for their crops, another asking for sun because it is a holiday. And God tosses a coin, and so we have Melbourne's weather. It is good to consider what really makes us happy—everything going our own way, more money, fewer worries, an easier job, the perfect school for our children? Or something else? It is also good to consider what sort of God we imagine—is it the God who gives us the lucky Lotto ticket, the God who fixes the weather, the God who can stop wars, the God could touch the minds and hearts of our parliamentarians as they consider the abortion bill? Or is it a God who loves and cherishes us and wants the best for us at all times? *Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate*

JUSTICE, PEACE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION



We need to think about TOILETS!

2008 is the International Year of Sanitation (IYS).

More than 2.6 billion people – roughly 40 percent of the world's population – lack

what most of us take for granted: a toilet.

The purpose of IYS is to raise awareness about this crisis and stimulate action to address it.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. They have stimulated efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest. The Millennium Development sanitation target is to reduce, by half, the proportion of people without a toilet between 1990 and 2015. Making the target a reality is critical to economic growth, to people's health, to women's empowerment, and to environmental sustainability. In fact, better sanitation will further all the MDGs.

Sanitation is the collection, transportation, treatment and disposal or reuse of human excreta, domestic wastewater and solid waste.

Why the need for the IYS?

- * Sanitation improves health and saves lives
- * Sanitation has economic benefits for countries, communities and families
- * Sanitation contributes to dignity and social development
- * Sanitation protects the environment

The issue

Human excreta is the essence of the sanitation challenge.

One gram of faeces can contain:

- 10,000,000 viruses
- 1,000,000 bacteria
- 1,000 parasite cysts
- 100 parasite eggs

Without sanitation facilities to safely contain and dispose of human faeces, the health of a community, especially its children who are most vulnerable to disease, is put at risk. As a result, bacteria, viruses and parasites are communicated through the water, soil, food and unwashed hands and contaminate everything in their path, causing disease (including dysentery and cholera), infections and infestations.

How to improve

Expanding sanitation coverage is rather simple. Affordable and practical solutions are available. The following needs to be done: Increase awareness and commitment; mobilize governments; secure real commitments; encourage demand driven, sustainable and traditional solutions; secure increased financing; develop and strengthen institutional and human capacity; enhance the sustainability; promote and capture learning <http://esa.un.org/iys/index.shtml>

Prayer points

- *Pray that churches around the world would speak up on the issue
- *Pray for the lobbying and research work that is being done by many to encourage governments to respond to the crisis
- *Pray that communities be given basic rights of having adequate water and sanitation

Sarah Menassa, Promoter of Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, Franciscan Provincial Office

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-SEPTEMBER 21

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6pm V Bellis, M&A O'Connor, S&J Arcuri
 7.30am F Neyland
 9.30am M Mackay, M Sinclair, M Blundy, I Abraham, L Lampard, C Chessari, C Chin

5pm E Umashamkar

Ministers of the Word

6pm R Mewyrs, M Rossely
 7.30am F Neyland
 9.30am J De Souza, H Miller
 5pm M Soulsby, L Soulsby

Welcomers

6pm J Arcuri, J Morison
 9.30am Fazio family

Children's Liturgy

October 12—28th Sunday in OT—Group C
 October 19—29th Sunday OT—Group A

Altar Linen

September 14 Judy Reid
 September 21 Mary Buhler

Counters

September 14 B&C Parsons
 September 21 P McGlin, P Madzarevic

Collectors 5pm

September 14 L Soulsby
 September 21 I Mahlstedt

Rosary Statue

Sept 14/21—Mrs M La, 4/1095 Whitehorse Rd

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

September 14 J Adamo
 September 21 P Grech

Lettori

September 14 G Amato, C Gibellini
 September 21 V Peluso, N Tedone

Ministri dell'Eucarista

September 14 G Tabbachiera, D Amato
 September 21 G Massarotti, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S—SEPTEMBER 21

Ministers of the Word

8.30 P Fitzgerald, T Nicholson
 10.30 K McDonald, D Hardy

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

8.30am E Lim, F Fitzgerald, A McGovern
 10.30am P O'Brien, D Tan, P Ciccotosto

Piety Stall—September 21

8.30 B Murphy 10.30 C Mirabella

Ministers to the Sick call on

families during the week. If you or someone in your family is unable to come to Mass, please let us know at the office and we can arrange for a Minister to visit you at home.

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.