



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

*In the care of the
Franciscan Friars*

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time February 8th, 2009—Year B

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Come, let us worship the Lord. Let us bow down in the presence of our maker, for he is the Lord our God.

Psalm Response

Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Give praise to the Lord for his kindness, for his wonderful deeds toward men. He has filled the hungry with good things, he has satisfied the thirsty.

PARISH MISSION

Fr Justin Belitz ofm
Homily at all Masses
this weekend

Evening Retreat Services
Sunday 8th February— 6pm
Monday-Thursday—7.30pm
at SFX Church

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.

Sighing for the Shade

Last week some of us headed off to the movies, supermarkets, or shopping complexes to find some relief from the heat. Our poor plane trees in front of the church are shedding their leaves even though it is not yet autumn. It is not just us but even animals, shrubs and trees are stressed. Struggles, boredom, toil, stress, illness do plague us at times, and even the weather pattern has an effect on our lives. All these factors become part of our lives. In the first reading today, Job reflects upon such a life and in the Gospel we hear about Jesus ministering to people in their daily living.

There is something great about being a Christian; we are called to be human and at the same time to think beyond our human experience - not just the drudgery of living and working, but finding God and making meaning of our journey. Today's readings from Job and Mark celebrate human existence and honour peoples' struggles in living, but also remind us of the healing presence of God through our faith community. In the second reading Paul reflects on his mission for all!

No matter what stage of life we are at, there are blessings and curses. Job's story resonates with some of the dark moments in our lives. We struggle with the question of human existence and suffering.

I hope having Christ in our lives help us to see things differently. In all ways it is liberating, not just about making meaning or having a purpose in our lives. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, the more we work together at it everything seems to come together and fit in. Even our dark side and our failures can be easily acknowledged and accepted because of the redemptive power of Christ. All will be well (Julian of Norwich).

Yet life has to be lived and it is a pilgrimage and a mystery, and we can never isolate events and compartmentalise our human journey. It was only through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus that the disciples understood Jesus' words and deeds better. Our faith helps our journey to dialogue or to enter into the conversation of life like Job.

Fr Anthoni ofm

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www.scsfx.org.au

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138 Woodhouse Grove
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This newsletter also available
at: www.scsfx.org.au

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 7:1-4, 6-7

I am filled with sorrow all day long.

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.

Mk 1:29-39

He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.

Monday

Gen 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday—St Scholastica

Gen 1:20—2:4; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday

Gen 2:4-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday

Gen 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30

Friday

Gen 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday

Gen 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10

NEXT SUNDAY 6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lev 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Cor 10:31—11:1

Mk 1:40-45

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 March 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

SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6.00-7.00PM	MORNING TEA AFTER 10AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA PARISH MISSION
MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 8.30AM 10.00AM 7.30-8.30PM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME. FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY AT ST CLARE'S PARISH HALL. OLIVE 9878 4103, THERESE 9878 3706 PARISH MISSION
TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 12.45PM 7.30PM-8.30PM	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX PARISH MISSION RCIA—SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
WEDNESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 8.30AM 9AM-11AM 12 NOON 7.30PM-8.30PM	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S. CONTACT: RAY BELL 9893 4481 ANOINTING MASS PARISH MISSION
THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 11.30AM 7.30PM	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—PICNIC AT MARANOVA GARDENS. BYO-LUNCH, CHAIR, ETC. MEET OUTSIDE CHURCH AT 11.30AM PARISH MISSION
FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 9.15AM 5.00PM-6.30PM 7.30PM-9.00PM	BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS LADIES DRINKS AT THE BLACKBURN HOTEL BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP AT SFX PARISH HOUSE
SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 8.30AM	PARISH WALKING GROUP—Meet at SFX Parish House. All welcome!
SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY 10.00AM 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	COMMISSIONING WEEKEND SCHOOL STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS 4 BAPTISMS AT SFX

COMMISSIONING SUNDAY
Next Sunday those who are involved in liturgical or service ministries will be commissioned at both churches at each Mass. The 10am Mass at SFX will be a commissioning Mass for SFX School.

AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Autumn Friendship Club is planning a picnic this Thursday, 12 February, at Maranova Gardens. The gardens are very shady, so it should be comfortable, even if the day is hot. There are some tables and seats but a few more chairs would help. BYO lunch and drinks. Meet at the church - Whitehorse Road side - at 11.30 am.
Next week - 19 February - Martin Hardy will speak to us about his overseas trip and the following week -26 February - we are going to a film - "Last Chance Harvey" with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson. Cost - \$16.00. Bookings - Marg - 9803 4973. All parishioners and their friends are welcome at our functions. Inquiries - Judy -9878 4212.

As a preparation for Easter, you are offered an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the Sunday gospels in Lent with a group of other parishioners. Please fill in the form below, nominating a day and time that would suit you ↓↓↓

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK
FEBRUARY 11, 12 noon at SFX
Mass and Anointing of the Sick
World Day of the Sick affords us the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of pain, and encourages us to model ourselves on Mary as the model of acceptance of God's will for our lives. We pray on this day for sick and infirm parishioners and family members, for health and pastoral care workers, and for all who care for the aged, suffering and those in need.

CATECHETIC CLASSES
Catholic children attending State schools are invited to enroll for catechetical classes in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation & Communion. Children from Gr 2 are welcome. In addition, classes will be held for students from Year 6, who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
Please phone the Parish Office (9890 2231)for Enrolment forms / information.

LENTEN STUDY/DISCUSSION GROUP
I would like to participate in a discussion group.

Name: _____ **Phone No:** _____

Preferred day: _____ **Preferred time: am/pm** _____

PLEASE LEAVE IN COLLECTION PLATE OR RETURN TO PARISH OFFICE

R.C.I.A

On Tuesday night at our RCIA meeting, Mark Collins joined us and gave us an inspirational talk on the saints. He focused on what makes a saint, not how they become one, but what they did that made them extraordinary. We came up with words describing them such as "Prayerful, Humble, Charity, Goodness and Faithful". But most of all it stood out that what made them such, was the Determination and Steadfastness to live God's word, to hear God's message and act on it, every day. It was a wonderful discussion and we were left with much to ponder.

Please remember our new candidates in your prayers.

My thought as I made my way home was what did my saint (saints name that I took at confirmation) do that was so extraordinary?

I really liked the phrase from St Augustine: My heart is restless O Lord, until I find peace in you.

May we all have time for a little peace today.
~ Lisa Norton

My corner

I have another little snippet from the front garden of the parish house, this time not a man-made one, but it seems also as destructive as last week's story. The huge plane trees along Whitehorse Road shed leaves on and off all year, according to poor Eddie our gardener, who continually battles with keeping things neat and clean. Last week's extraordinary heat wave seems to have totally burnt and desiccated the leaves. When I arrived at work on Tuesday there was a thick solid carpet of leaves, so thick that you couldn't see the gutters—I've never seen them like that, even in the midst of autumn. We are very concerned about the trees, and whether they will survive or not, although I have seen them cope with some rather savage pruning in the past. They are indicative of how many of us have been feeling after the heat—tired, drained, listless. Hopefully the parish Mission will enliven us all, bringing with it some cooler weather. I was sitting around feeling sorry for myself because I'm weary and hot, and I opened the current copy of Kairos. It contained an article headed 'Zimbabwe's catastrophe', written by Sr Ivy Khoury from Caritas Australia's Africa Program. If we thought it's tough here, we don't really know we are alive. The people are starving, they have nothing, they are ill and there are no medicines, there's no work, no school, the government is in chaos. It's total disaster, total tragedy. But these faithful people still pray, believing that God will bring them out of their suffering. They have much to teach us. A bucket of water might help our trees, a smile encourage tired spirits. What can we possibly do for the people of Zimbabwe? I'm open to your ideas.

Liz Clark, Pastoral Associate

ROSTERS FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD, COMMUNION AND WELCOMING at SFX

are available at the rear of the church today. If we have your email address, they have already been sent to you. If you didn't receive an emailed or hard copy, please contact the Parish Office.

Fr Benedict O'Donghue RIP

Fr Benedict O'Donoghue has died in Sydney on Thursday of last week.. His outstanding work assisting the FMU & the Papua New Guinea mission will long be remembered in the Franciscan Province of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord of all good bless & reward him abundantly.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Volunteers are required to help out at the Mont Albert shop located in Hamilton St, Mont Albert. Further information is available from the Manager, Geraldine Grimmett at the shop on 9898 0720. Any help would be much appreciated.

YOUNG VINNIES IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!!

Vinnies Youth is a broad term that encompasses people of many ages who volunteer to run and organise activities for all kinds of people in need such as running inner city soup vans, mentoring programs, home visitation for people, tutoring, kid's camps and kid's days out (KDOs).

The Doncaster conference is now in its 5th year and we actively participate in many different Vinnies programs and run a KDO program from Doncaster. The days are run by the youth and are designed to provide a little respite for parents and fun for the kids. All KDOs and camps are run free of charge by the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Enquiries: Suz Burns on 0438 065 803 or burnsey10@hotmail.com .

CAMPION CENTRE OF IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY—OPEN DAY

Sunday 15 February—10am-3pm

What are Spiritual Exercises? Who is spiritual direction? What happens on a retreat? Am I ready to make a silent retreat? What is the best for me now?

Please be our guest for the day to explore Ignatian spirituality and what our Centres offer. This day of prayer, reflection and conversation will begin at 10 am and end at 3 pm and include celebration of the Eucharist at 12.15 pm and a light lunch at 1.00 pm. Meet our team, tour our centre, experience our Spirituality. Please arrive at 9.45 am. Bookings are essential to assist with catering.

From Fr Ben

The Lord's Prayer may be committed to memory quickly, but it is slowly learned by heart.

(F.D. Maurice)

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S—FEBRUARY 15

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

6.00pm M&A OConnor, R Meyers, V Bellis, M Chandler

8.00am J Reid

10.00am K Kirwan, W Tan, E&E VDW, P&R Cusen, M Mackay

5.00pm M Soulsby

Ministers of the Word

6.00pm M Jeffares, E Colafella

8.00am J Manshon

10.00am M Kirwan, J Tan

5.00pm M Slevison, M Waring

Welcomers

6.00pm B&M O'Shaughnessy

10.00am V&B Burns

Children's Liturgy

February 15-6th Sunday OT—Year B—Group B

Altar Linen

February 8 J Reid

February 15 E O'Brien

Counters

February 8 H Kerwin, M O'Connor

February 15 B&C Parsons

Collectors 5pm

February 8 I Mahlstedt

February 15 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

February 8—M Charles, 4/97 Hawthorn Rd, FH

February 15—A Leonard, 22 Graham Place

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

February 8 J Adamo

February 15 P Grech

Lettori

February 8 G Amato, C Gibillini

February 15 V Peluso, N Tedone

Ministri dell'Eucarista

February 8 G Tabacchiera, D Amato

February 15 G Massarotti, R Bidinost

ST CLARE'S—FEBRUARY 15

Ministers of the Word

9.00am TP Fitzgerald, K McMahon, C Abiad

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

9.00am F Fitzgerald, P O'Brien, J Murphy,

T Nicholson, D Wobers, T Shallvey, P Wolbers

Piety Stall—February 15

9.00am P Green

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.

YEAR OF ST PAUL

Continue to love each other like brothers, and remember always to welcome strangers, for by doing this, some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13

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.