

Parish of Box Hill

St Francis Xavier–St Clare

4th Sunday of Advent Year A.

from the prophet Isaiah

7:10f

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, ‘Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.’ ‘No’, Ahaz answered ‘I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: ‘Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means “God-is-with-us”.’ The word of the Lord.

Psalm (All)

24:1f

R/. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

from letter of James

5:7f

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour

of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God’s beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace. The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

from the holy Gospel of Matthew

11:2f

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home. The Gospel of the Lord.

Gathering

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Acclamation

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

Communion

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

1087 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128
Telephone 9890 2231
Facsimile 9898 4392
email: boxhill@cam.org.au
www.scsfx.org.au

SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL 9890 1108
www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au

ST CLARE CHURCH

138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone 9898 5080
email: boxhill@cam.org.au

FRIARS OF THE PARISH

PARISH PRIEST
FR PETER McGRATH OFM

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

FR BOB MATTHEWS OFM
FR PETER TRAN OFM
FR HARRY CHAN OFM

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

SR MOIRA BRODERICK CSB

SFX Office Hours:

9.30 am to 4.30 pm
Monday—Friday
Parish Secretary— Monique Waring

St Clare Office Hours:

Wednesday—9.00 am—10.30 am
Parish Admin Officer—Mary Dunn

MASS TIMES

St Clare

Sunday 9.30 am
Wed & Sat 9.00 am
Confessions: Sat 9.30—10 am

St Francis Xavier

Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm
Sunday 10.00am
5.30 pm

Mon—Fri 12 noon
Confessions: Sat 4.00—5.00 pm

ITALIAN MASS

Sunday 11am at St Clare

MANDARIN MASS

4th Sunday 12.30pm at SFX

VIETNAMESE MASS

1st Sunday 5pm at St Clare

MARRIAGES

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

BAPTISMS

St Francis Xavier—1st & 3rd Sundays only, 11.30 am

St Clare—2nd Sunday only, at 9.30am Mass

Presentation Mass followed by Preparation Session—2nd Sunday of each month at 10.00am Mass at SFX.

Christmas Masses

Readers/Commentators, Ministers of the Eucharist & Projectionists are asked to advise the Parish Office ASAP of their availability for Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Mass times are listed below:

Tuesday 24 December	10.00am Liturgy SFX 4.00pm Mass SFX 6.30pm Mass SFX 7pm Mass St Clare 9pm Mass SFX	'Story of Christmas for the Littlies' Christmas Eve Mass for Seniors Christmas Eve Family Mass/Carols 6pm Christmas Eve Mass/Carols 6.30pm Christmas Eve Mass/Carols 8.30pm
Wednesday 25 December	9am SFX 9.30am St Clare 11am St Clare	Christmas Day Mass Christmas Day Mass Italian Christmas Mass

Please note: there will be **NO MIDDAY MASS** on **Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December**. Mass for Seniors is at 4pm at SFX.



OFFICE HOURS

**SFX Parish Office will close on
Monday December 23 at 1.00pm**

& will reopen on

Wednesday January 15th at 9.30am.

**Urgent messages only may be left on the
answering machine & one of the friars will
respond when they are able.**

The first AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP

CLUB film for 2014 will be "BACKYARD ASHES", a comedy which has had good reviews. We will see it on Thursday, February 20, so we hope all our members and friends will keep this in mind when planning to see a film over the summer. We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Information – Judy – 9878 4212 - or Marg – 9803 4937.

The **ABORTION LAW REFORM ACT** of 2008 compels a doctor to refer a woman to an abortionist, even though this is against his own belief. There is a petition to the Parliament, asking for protection for doctors, that they should not be forced to act against their conscience and refer a patient for an abortion, especially when abortions don't require a referral. There are copies of this petition at the back of the church; if you support this endeavour, please, add your signature. For information – Judy, 9878 4212.

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 in Sydney. To carry this forward you might like to take home a yellow sheet from the church doors, choose a favourite chair at home as your prayer-chair and place the sheet within easy reach. Slide into this chair from time to time during the coming week, take up the white bulletin sheet you are reading with the readings on the front page, and aided by Brendan and Richard on the yellow sheet, with a listening heart mull over the readings. YouTube offers a third help each week! Interested? Single click on: Internet Explorer; Single click on: YouTube; Type in: Geoffrey Plant; Single Click on: 4th Sunday of Advent




SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER	9.30AM 11.00AM 12.30PM	2 BAPTISMS AT ST CLARE DURING MASS CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA AT SFX MANDARIN MASS AT SFX
MONDAY 23 DECEMBER	8.30AM 1.00PM 4.00PM	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) OFFICE CLOSED FOR 2013 WEDDING AT SFX
TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER		NO MIDDAY MASS SEE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ON PREVIOUS PAGE
WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER		THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER		FEAST OF ST STEPHEN
FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER		FEAST OF ST JOHN, THE APOSTLE
SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER		FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS
SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER		FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

4th Sunday of Advent

"The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the sea and established it upon the rivers." Psalm 24:1-2

How can we take credit for the good things in our lives when Psalm 24 reminds us that God created absolutely everything and everyone on the earth? Surely we all have an obligation to return a portion of our good fortune to the Lord, for without Him nothing would be possible.






St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Christmas Appeal

ST VINCENT DE PAUL
Gifts for our Christmas Giving 2013



This year, gifts for St Vincent de Paul can be offered by "A Gift Card" – Coles/Myer, Woolworths, Big W, or other store of your choice. The value of these will be your donation towards assisting those in need at Christmas. We will replace "Gifts under the Tree" with "Vouchers in the Box!"

There is a box near the Christmas Tree in the church at SFX for your donations. Thank you for your continued generosity for the needy in our own local area.

St Vincent de Paul Team

Envelopes are also available in both churches.

POPE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY BY HAVING BREAKFAST WITH HOMELESS MEN

As part of a low-key celebration of his 77th birthday, Pope Francis had breakfast with three people who live on the streets near the Vatican. A small dog belonging to one of the homeless men was also on the guest list.

The pope started the day with his usual morning Mass held in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae residence where he lives.

However, he requested that the Mass be attended by the residence staff 'in order to create a particularly family atmosphere for the celebration,' the Vatican press office said in a written statement Tuesday. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, represented the world's cardinals at the Mass, and Archbishop Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, attended.

After the Mass, all those present sang 'Happy Birthday' to the Pope, the Vatican statement said. The pope then met with everyone, including three homeless men who were brought there by Archbishop Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner.

The archbishop invited the first group of men he had found early that morning sleeping under the large portico in front of the Vatican press hall on the main boulevard in front of St Peter's Square, according to the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

'Would you like to come to Pope Francis' birthday party?' he asked them, the paper reported. The men, in their 40s, were from Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic. They loaded all their belongings into the archbishop's car; the dog rode in the middle.

When they got to the residence, they waited for the Mass to end, then greeted the Pope. Together with Krajewski, they gave the pope a bouquet of sunflowers because they always turn toward the sun like the church turns toward its sun, Christ, the archbishop said.

The pope invited the men to have breakfast with him in the residence dining room, where they talked and shared a few laughs.

- Catholic News Service

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The Way of the Heart : A Pilgrimage

After a very successful first year this program is being offered once again in 2014 – 10 Saturdays throughout the year.

A commitment to the inner journey is a pre-requisite, it includes input, guided reading and reflection. Be prepared to immerse yourself in an experience that is unpredictable.

Bookings: **9890 1101** or email : **holsc@bigpond.com**

**ROSTERS
DURING THE DECEMBER/JANUARY
BREAK, EXTRAORDINARY
MINISTERS OF
COMMUNION & MINISTERS OF THE
WORD ARE REQUESTED TO
VOLUNTEER AT MASSES AS
REQUIRED.**

**CHRISTMAS ROSTER AT SFX
Christmas Eve 4.00pm - Fr Bob**

Eucharistic Ministers:

J Morison +

Readers: M Jeffares, Sr Moira

Data Projection: J Micheli

Christmas Eve 6.30pm - Fr Harry

Eucharistic Ministers:

W Tan, A Setiawan, T D'Andrea, L Hughes

Readers: J Tan, K Hindle

Data Projection: A Hughes

Christmas Eve 9.00pm - Fr Peter McG

Reader: L Norton

Commentator: P Fitzgerald

Eucharistic Ministers:

A McGlin, J Reid, J Hickey, M Chan,

K Kirwan, M Kirwan, M Sinclair

Data Projection: M Edwards

Christmas Day 9.00am - Fr Peter Tran

Readers: M Collins, M Williamsz

Eucharistic Ministers:

D Williamsz, A Setiawan, +

Data Projection: S Liew

CHRISTMAS ROSTER AT SC

Christmas Eve 7pm - Fr Peter Tran

Reader: T Nicholson

Commentator: A McGovern

Eucharistic Ministers: M Legarda,

J Murphy, T Shallvey, D Tan, P O'Brien,

A McGovern, I D'Amato

Christmas Day 9.30am - Fr Bob

Reader: K McMahon

Commentator: D Tan

Eucharistic Ministers:

C Lim, E Lim, D Tan, J Murphy, I D'Amato

ROSTERS—SFX

Altar Linen

December 22 J Reid

December 29 W Tan

Counters

December 22 B&C Parsons

December 29 M Rossely, P McGlin

Morning Tea

Dec 22— S Liew; Dec 29 - L Lampard

FOR SALE !
(A Christmas present!)



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"The Clarean"
(The Story of the Parish of St Clare 1962-2012) \$30 per copy

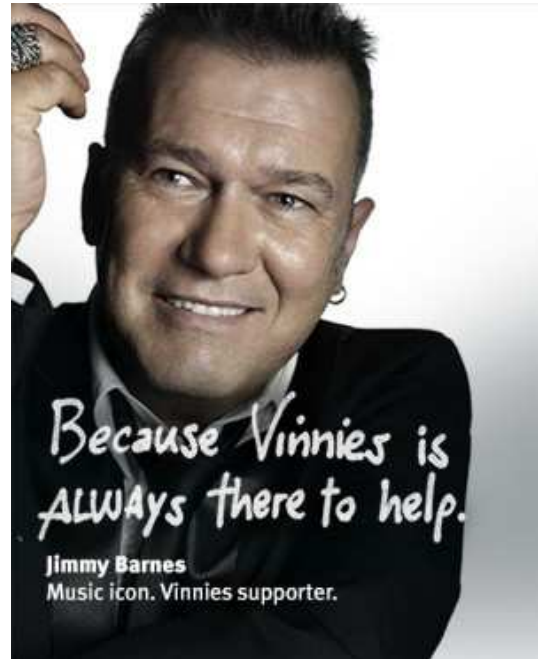
Payment (cash/cheque)
on collection from the Parish Office.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Christmas Appeal

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Wednesday January 15th at 9.30am.

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AVAILABLE FROM SFX PARISH OFFICE & THE PIETY STALL AT ST CLARE.

- **2014 FRANCISCAN CALENDARS** (a great Christmas gift). This year—Frescoes depicting the life of St Francis of Assisi painted by Renaissance artist, Benozzo Gozzoli. Commissioned by the Franciscans of S. Francesco Church in Montefalco, Umbria, 1450 –1452 - **ONLY \$6 EACH!**
- **COLUMBAN CALENDARS** (AT ST CLARE PIETY STALL) **\$8 EACH.**



24 Hours Every day

We can provide advice and assistance with funerals or prepaid funeral plans. For caring, personalised service contact

Colin Wegener Doug Berwick
1048 Whitehorse Road,
Box Hill 3128
Phone 9890 0404

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