



Newsletter for the Parishes of St Clare and St Francis Xavier

In the care of the Franciscan Friars

Ascension of the Lord May 4th, 2008—Year A

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

Our responses today are:

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking in the sky? The Lord will return, just as you have seen him ascend, alleluia.

Psalm Response

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world, alleluia.



This week

Give witness to your faith this week by living the way of Christ: do not judge others, act with humility, respond to the needs of others, pray often.

The feast of the Ascension celebrates the physical separation of Jesus from the human story, but today's gospel promises his continual presence 'to the end of time'.

After three years of living, working and praying with the disciples, Jesus commissions them to continue his work in the world. This is a difficult challenge for some disciples who, although prepared to go the appointed place, still hesitate! Despite their misgivings and fragile faith, he sends them out to all nations. Jesus has been given the authority that was once the exclusive domain of the God of Israel; Jesus has become the presence of the living God and his presence will continue with his disciples through the Holy Spirit.



RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Today we remember that every human life is sacred and belongs to God. This includes all those who through some kind of sickness or illness are temporarily or permanently disabled. Pope John Paul II reminded us that "Human life is always good. It is a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory."

Pope Benedict reminds us that "We are not some casual and meaningless produce of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. For this reason the Church defends all human life from its very first moments, until its natural death. The Church stands beside all those whose lives are threatened through sickness or disability. All life belongs to God. Benedict He also says: "The Gospel of life and love is also the Gospel of Mercy, offered to the real and sinful people that we are, to raise them from any failing and repair any wound."

See p 2 re prayers for life.

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Facsimile 9898 4392
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au
www.scsfx.org.au

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www.sfxboxh@melb.catholic.edu.au

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138 Woodhouse Grove
North Box Hill, 3129
Telephone/Fax 9898 5080
email: sfxbh@celestial.com.au

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

READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Acts 1:1-11
Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.
Eph 1:17-23
He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.
Lk 24:46-53
All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Monday
Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday
Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11
Wednesday
Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19
Thursday
Acts 22:30, 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26
Friday
Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

**NEXT SUNDAY
PENTECOST SUNDAY**
Acts 2:1-11
1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13
Jn 20:19-23

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 Karen Nolan
Veronika Bellis
Vince Fazio Julian Sakowski
Clare Hangan Liz Clark
Jennifer Micheli Dianna Hardy
Trish Nicholson(Chair) Carmel Purdey
Monica Nitz Monique Waring

Next meeting : May 1

Liturgy Times

St Clare's

Sunday 8.30 am, 10.30am

Weekdays:

Wed, Fri & Sat 9.05 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:

Sunday 4 May RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY		WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS, IN SFX RESOURCE AREA
Monday 5 May	8.30am 10.00am 4.00pm 7.00pm	SENIOR MIXED SOCIAL TENNIS GROUP @ SFX (CALL JUDY REID 9878 4212 OR JUST TURN UP) ALL WELCOME FRANCIS/CLARE CHARISMATIC PRAYER COMMUNITY (SC HALL) CONTACT: OLIVE 9878 4103 CATECHETIC CLASSES AT ST CLARE'S CONFIRMATION CLASS AT SFX
Tuesday 6 May	12.45pm 7.30pm	LEGION OF MARY @ SFX RCIA IN SFX PARISH HOUSE MEETING ROOM
Wednesday 7 May	8.30am 9.00am 10.30am 12.30pm 7.30pm	TENNIS GROUP (AS MONDAY) PLAYGROUP AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL (ENTER VIA HARRISON ST). FURTHER INFORMATION: LYNNE FOGALE 9898 2516 SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP @ ST CLARE'S PARISH HOUSE (CONTACT: ADRIENNE 9849 0667) ST CLARE'S SENIORS @ SC PARISH HOUSE KNIGHTS OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS @ SFX
Thursday 8 May	10.30am 7.30pm	AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—TRAM TO PORT MELBOURNE. MEET @ BOX HILL TRAM TERMINUS. NAMES TO MARG CHARLES 9803 4973 BAPTISM COURSE @ SFX
Friday 9 May	5-6.30pm 8.00pm	LADIES DRINKS @ ZANTE, CNR WHITEHORSE & KANGERONG BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP @ SFX PARISH HOUSE
Saturday 10 May	9.00am	PARISH WALKING GROUP—MEET AT SFX PARISH HOUSE

MAY 8TH—AUTUMN FRIENDSHIP CLUB—TRAM TO PORT MELBOURNE. MEET @ BOX HILL TRAM TERMINUS. NAMES PARTICIPATING TO MARG CHARLES 9803 4973

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: I AM REVIEWING WEEKEND/WEEKDAY MASS TIMES IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS. I WILL ALSO BE LOOKING AT THE OPTION OF HAVING COMMUNION SERVICES, ESPECIALLY WHEN I AM AWAY OR WHEN NO PRIESTS ARE AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF FUNERAL COMMITMENTS, ETC. FR ANTHONI

SOME CHANGES IN THE CELEBRATION OF MASS Please take home one of the leaflets at the church doors, which explain some changes in the way we celebrate Mass, which are to be introduced from Pentecost Sunday, 11 May .

From Fr Ben People who try to pretend they're superior make it so much harder for those of us who really are. (Hyacinth Bucket (Bouquet))

MORE BEDS NEEDED FOR MELBOURNE STAY

With over 25,000 pilgrims coming to Melbourne we need more BEDS!
DID08 is calling for families to come forward to billet our international visitors from around the world. **DID08 currently has 9,239 beds but the goal is 20,000 beds to cater for all our visiting pilgrims!** Come on Melbourne families – get involved today and make a significant contribution to what will be one of the biggest youth events ever held in Melbourne! Please call the Parish Office on 9890 2231.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

THE ANNUAL MASS COUNT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE WILL BE TAKE PLACE OVER THE FOUR WEEKENDS OF MAY, BEGINNING TODAY AT BOTH PARISHES.

Collectors please note!

If you requested a receipt for your Project Compassion donation, it is available for collection from SFX Parish Office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISHES—SUNDAY MAY 25 @ 12NOON IN SFX HALL

There are a number of Parish Pastoral Councillors due to retire at the AGM. If you or someone you know would like to assist in providing leadership to our Parish.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

PRAYERS FOR LIFE
FRIDAY MAY 16

3.00—3.30

ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

You are invited to gather together to pray -for the unborn, the fragile and vulnerable, the elderly and infirm, and for a society that justly acknowledges the dignity of all people.

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY
4 MAY - 11 MAY 2008**



"Pray without ceasing"
(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

In 2008 the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity marks 100 years since the first 'Prayer Octave (eight days) for Christian Unity' began in 1908.

These 8 days leading up to the great feast of Pentecost - May 4 to May 11 - are therefore a wonderful historic opportunity to renew and deepen our relationships in the one God in whom we share together through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. This year's theme appropriately is 'Pray without ceasing' (1 Thess 5:17).

FRIDAY 9th MAY — 12 NOON MASS

**Please join us to pray for
Christian Unity**

THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN CANCER BUSH WALK RAISING \$1M FOR THE CANCER COUNCIL. 5th MAY 2008 - 27th JUNE 2009. Veteran bush-walker and secondary school teacher Michael Mitchell from Catholic Regional College, Nth Keilor will complete a historic bush walk starting at Cape York QLD on 5th May 2008, traversing three states and finishing at Wilsons Promontory VIC on 27th June 2009. Michael is raising \$1M to 'support The Cancer Council's lifesaving cancer research, education programs to help prevent cancers and detect them at an early stage, and support services for Australians in great need.
www.thegreatcancerwalk.com.au

My corner

St Paul would be proud of me— of the fact that I am taking his words to the Ephesians so literally. As I return from a wonderful holiday, I declare that the eyes of my mind have been enlightened to see the beauty of all I have been called to, to the rich glories God has promised we will inherit, and to how infinitely great God's power is. Travelling through the Flinders Ranges, through land 630 million years old, looking at the vast and wonderful skies above Lake Mungo, so brilliantly lit by that amazing moon last week, I was continually astounded by how magnificent our world is, how almighty God truly is, and how unimportant I am in the scheme of things. I am so frequently focused on me, on my problems and fears, my concerns— and suddenly I realize that I and they are not really that important. I hope that this new perspective will keep me centered on the things that *are* important, and that the spirit of wisdom and knowledge leads me to a fuller understanding of our God.

fiz Clark,
Pastoral Associate

YOUTH GROUP

Drop in for a 'get-together' at
'The Basement' at St Clare's on
Friday 9th May from 6pm.
BYO food and drinks.
ALL WELCOME!

Religious freedom under new threat in Victoria

Act now to keep our freedom!

Victorians have already lost the right to free speech on religious matters because of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 - under which Christians have been prosecuted for truthful but critical comments on Islam and for opposing witchcraft. The Victorian Department of Justice is now carrying out an "Exceptions Review" of the Equal Opportunity Act 1995 which could lead to the removal of the three important exemptions to discrimination based on religion:

Maintaining the religious exemptions in the Equal Opportunity Act 1995 is absolutely necessary to ensure the right of Victorians to exercise genuine religious freedom. The current exemptions are compatible with the Charter's (Section 14) provision on the right to "freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief".

2008 Knox Public Lecture

Wednesday May 14th 2008 at 7.30pm

Professor Gregory Craven

"The Catholic Public Intellectual:

An extinct species?"

To book or for more information: Email: ctc@ctc.edu.au or phone 9412 3314. RSVP by Friday 9th May 2007.

Catholic Theological College, East Melbourne

INAUGURAL KIMBERLEY INDIGENOUS ART AUCTION

in aid of The St Mary's Cultural Exchange Fund, at 7.30pm on Friday 9 May at Genazzano FCJ College, 301 Cotham Road, Kew. Viewing from 6 - 7.30pm.

Pat Dodson will give the Welcome Address.

Artworks can be viewed at www.genazzano.vic.edu.au

Free admission. Enquiries: 8862 1159

BREAKFAST AT THE TUDOR

Graeme Rule speaking on "The Great Brain Robbery". Graeme is executive director of the Coalition on Alcohol & Drug Education.

Thursday 15th May @ 7am-8.30am.

1101 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill. Cost \$27 (Concession \$22) RSVP 13 May 9877 1971.

Endeavour Forum Inc—Pro Life Conference

10am—5pm, 17 May @ The Thomas More Centre, 582 Queensbury St, North Melbourne. All welcome. \$20 per head includes lunch. RSVP essential to Prue Oldham 9583 6835 or Gabrielle Walsh 9326 5757.

Confraternity of Christ the Priest

Annual concelebrated Mass at St Clare's Church at 11am on Saturday May 17, with a shared BYO luncheon afterwards. All welcome.

ROSTERS

ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S-MAY 11

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

6pm E Kimmet, M&A O'Connor,
J Morison, D Williamsz
7.30am F Neyland
9.30am M Chan, C Hangan, M Mackay,
G Augustin, F Fitzgerald,
M Slevison, M Sinclair

5pm P McLaughlin

Ministers of the Word

6pm E Colafella, M Williamsz
7.30am F Neyland
9.30am GRADE 6
5pm E Umashankar, T Parker

Welcomers

6pm D&M Williamsz
9.30am GRADE 6

Children's Liturgy

May 18—Trinity Sunday—Group A
May 25—Body & Blood Christ—Group B

Altar Linen

May 4 Ursula Clifford
May 11 Marie Cahill

Counters

May 4 T&E O'Brien
May 11 R&Y Roy

Collectors 5pm

May 4 I Mahlstedt
May 11 P Aldag

Rosary Statue

May 4—M&L Soulsby, 7 Simpsons Rd
May 11—V&B Burns, 2/18 Loddon St

ITALIAN MASS

Commentator

May 4 G Amato
May 11 G Tabbachiera

Lettori

May 4 A Dinardo, A D'Alessandro
May 11 M Salamone, D Amato

Ministri dell'Eucarista

May 4 D Amato, M Casamento
May 11 R Bidinost, G Tabbachiera

ST CLARE'S—MAY 11

Ministers of the Word

8.30 D Hayes, T Nicholson
10.30 A Kenna, M Hardy

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

8.30am J Murphy, A McGovern, J Easdown
10.30am D Tan, P Ciccostosto, T Shallvey

Piety Stall—May 11

8.30 A Lindsey 10.30 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.

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.