

Saint Francis Xavier Church
Cnr Whitehorse & Dorking Rds
Box Hill VIC 3128



Saint Clare Church
138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North VIC 3129

15th October 2026

Dear Parishioners

The 29th Ordinary Sunday Gospel message: *They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'* (Mt. 22: 20-21) Caesar represents the world, while Jesus comes from God. Although God created the world for us to live in, care for, and cultivate, the world is marked by sin and death and cannot give us true and eternal life. Jesus reveals to us that God is the source and giver of life. Therefore, we are called to place our trust in God through faith in Jesus Christ. Today, we also celebrate the Feast of St Teresa of Ávila, a Spanish mystic and saint who experienced the profound mystery of God. In her book *The Interior Castle*, she describes the spiritual life as an interior journey through different stages of spiritual growth. As we progress along this journey and draw closer to God, we become more deeply aware of His presence and gradually experience His mystery in our daily lives.

A dearly loved past parishioner Nancy Guinane passed away this week. Nancy was a valued volunteer at SFX for many years. She was very gentle, loving and a humble person. She was always a source of joy to everyone around her. Although she had been living in aged care for several years, she remained a valued member of our parish community. Her funeral service will be held next Thursday at SFX. She made a wonderful contribution to our parish, and we thank God for the gift of her life and the blessings she brought to our community. We are also very grateful to have Sr Gemma, who visits our elderly parishioners and helps them maintain their connection with the parish.

Seminarian Bao Hoang will conclude his visit with us tomorrow. He will return to Corpus Christi for two weeks before spending another month visiting Holy Child Parish in Dallas. His time with us has given him a valuable opportunity to learn more about the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne and to discern his vocation within the Archdiocese. We keep him in our prayers and ask God to guide him in his discernment. In two weeks' time, as part of this exchange of experiences, another seminarian, Hoan Huynh, will join us for a month. We warmly welcome Hoan and look forward to sharing this time with him.

This month is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and Whitehorse Churches Care has invited us to take part in a week of prayer while walking through our local community. We give thanks to God for the City of Whitehorse and for all those who live and work here. In previous years, our walking Rosary has been a meaningful outdoor prayer experience, bringing us together in faith to pray for our community. Tomorrow, we will begin at SFX at 10:00 am, walk to Box Hill Hospital, and return via Thames Street.

Greater Box Hill Parish

St Francis Xavier – St Clare Parish Office
1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9401 6371 Email: boxhill@cam.org.au

Along the way, we will pray for our local council, businesses, schools, hospitals, aged care, residents, colleges, and churches, asking God to bless and guide everyone in our community. If you are physically able to manage the walking distance, I warmly invite you to join us in this special time of prayer and fellowship for our city.

Next week Saturday 24th October, the Whitehorse Interfaith Network communities will visit SFX to connect with our Catholic faith. Six temples from Blackburn will attend. Their visitation is between 1.30-3.00pm. SFX volunteers are encouraged to welcome the group. If you are free, please come along to assist.

Prayer Champion:

1. We pray for Pope Leo who is having surgery for his lung cancer. May God bless him and ensure he makes a speedy recovery.
2. We pray for our elderly parishioners. May God care and console them when they are lonely at home or unwell.

Yours in Jesus Christ



Fr Phuong Vu
Parish Priest

Important Links and Direct Deposit Account details are:

Church: Name: Parish of Box Hill Church Account BSB: 083-347 Acct No: 662202656
Presbytery: Name: Parish of Box Hill Presbytery Account BSB: 083-347 Acct No: 837114640
Parish Website: <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/boxhill>
Parish Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/GBHparish>

Correspondence to Parish Office

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