



**ST FRANCIS XAVIER & ST CLARE
CATHOLIC PARISH OF
GREATER BOX HILL**

Entrance

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Mystery of Faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion

The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

18 October 2026

First Reading Is 45:1.4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not
know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to
the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. (R.)
- 2 The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.
(R.)

- 3 Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
- 4 Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.**

Alleluia!



Gospel Mt 22:15-21

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' 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.'

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

The gospel writer presents this episode as a deliberate attempt by the Pharisees to trap Jesus and turn the people against him. Their plan was a good one, with no apparent 'safe' answer: is it permissible (within Jewish tradition) to pay taxes to Caesar or not? If Jesus were to answer that it is not permissible to pay taxes then he would be identified as a rebel and a threat to Roman authority – leaving himself open to severe punishment. If he were to answer that it was permissible to pay the taxes he would have alienated a lot of his audience who resented the taxes imposed by Rome.

Instead of falling into the trap set by the Pharisees, Jesus approaches the question in a completely different way. He asks them to show him the money with which they pay the tax. Immediately, he has turned the tables on them. He doesn't appear to carry any of the coin in question and yet the Pharisees' disciples carry them as a matter of habit. They are asking if it is permissible to pay the tax and yet freely carry the coin with which the tax is paid. Jesus shows up the hypocrisy of their question by forcing them to reveal their own position in the simple action of producing one of the Roman coins. Jesus then closes the dispute by instructing them to render (give) to Caesar what belongs to Caesar but, more importantly, render to God what belongs to God. In a very simple way Jesus has shown up the Pharisees' disciples as being collaborators with the Roman authority and placing that authority above the authority of God. He reminds the listeners that regardless of earthly authority, the first duty is owed to God.

St Francis Xavier Church

1087 Whitehorse Road
Box Hill 3128

St Clare Church

138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North 3129

Telephone **9401 6371**

Email: boxhill@cam.org.au

Website:

<http://www.melbocatholic.org/s/boxhill>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/GBHparish>

Parish Priest: Fr Phuong Vu

Assistant Priest: Fr Ignatius Tan

Pastoral Associate: Gemma Alsawalha

St. Francis Xavier Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9.30am - 4.00pm

Parish Secretary: Katrina Pirrie

Parish Admin Officer: Alicia Cleary

MASS TIMES:

St Clare

Weekend Mass Times

Sunday: 9.00 am

Italian 11.00 am

Vietnamese Mass 5.00 pm

Weekday Mass Times

Wednesday: 9.00 am

Thursday: 7.00 pm

Saturday: 9.00 am

Reconciliation: Saturday: 9.30 - 10 am

St Francis Xavier

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 5.30 pm

Sunday: 7.30 am

10.15am

5.30pm

Weekday Mass times

Monday—Friday: 12 noon

Reconciliation: Saturday 4.00 -5.00 pm

Marriages: By appointment

Baptisms:

SFX - 1st & 3rd Sundays only at 11.30am

St Clare - during 9.00am Mass

Preparation Session - 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Parish House

Presentation Mass - 2nd Sunday of each month at 10.15am Mass at SFX.

Please ring Parish Office to arrange.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Phone: 9890 1108

www.sfxboxhill.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mary Jones

Our Parish community of Greater Box Hill is committed to the Victorian Child Safety Standards and acknowledges that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Parish of Greater Box Hill acknowledges that we are on the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country in the City of Whitehorse, home of the traditional custodians of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 10.30AM – 3.00PM

Join the Whitehorse Interfaith Network for a community bus tour exploring two places of worship within the City of Whitehorse.

Discover different faiths, cultures and traditions through shared stories, meaningful conversations and connection. The tour will visit SGNSS – Gurdwara Blackburn and St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Box Hill, providing an opportunity to learn more about the beliefs, practices and histories of these local faith communities.

A vegetarian lunch will be provided at SGNSS – Gurdwara Blackburn. Please note that dietary requirements cannot be accommodated. If you have specific dietary needs, you are welcome to bring your own lunch to enjoy during the tour.

Register here to secure your spot:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1621097>

CAN YOU HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED CHURCH-RELATED ABUSE?

For fourteen years, the Lifeboat Geelong Foundation has been assisting victims of church-related sexual abuse from all over Australia. In recent years, generous supporters have donated a number of motor vehicles of varied value (from \$500 to \$20,000!), including cars from deceased estates or which are no longer required. Some have been directly gifted to a victim/survivor in need, while others have been sold to generate funds required to assist victims in a multitude of ways e.g. counselling, rent, utilities and other domestic and personal necessities.

You could help this important work both simply by bringing it to the attention of people who might consider donating a **motor vehicle, if possible in roadworthy or near-roadworthy condition** and which for whatever reason is no longer required.

Please contact: Fr Kevin Dillon Mob: 0421 777 360

Email: frkdillon@outlook.com.au or

Damian Coyne Mob: 0400 170 374

Email: dkcoyne@hotmail.com

TO CONTRIBUTE FINANCIALLY TO ST FRANCIS XAVIER-ST CLARE PARISH

(Catholic Development Fund is the legally registered name)

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



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP ROSTER

OCTOBER 2026

PLEASE USE THE LINKS BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR OUR MINISTRY ROSTER.

LINKS ALSO FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

volunteersignup.org/J3QPM

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU

SOUTHERN STARS SOCIAL CLUB OVER

28'S PARTY NIGHT FOR SINGLE

CATHOLICS (28-60yrs)

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

7.30PM

ST BENEDICT'S PARISH HALL

Central Ave Burwood

COST: Members \$7, Non members \$13
includes lucky door prizes and supper

Enquiries: Peter Ph: 9885 2167

Looking for flexible work and a chance to support persecuted Christians?

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia is seeking a Diocesan Outreach Assistant to give short presentations at weekend Masses across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

This part-time role involves sharing stories of the suffering Church and helping build prayerful support within parish communities.

If you are comfortable speaking in front of others and have a heart for this mission, we would love to hear from you.

For details:

www.aidtochurch.org/work



Synod 2026

For further information please visit:

Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Darren Ford, Tina D'Andrea, Pope Leo

ANNIVERSARY: John Francis Boyce

RECENTLY DECEASED: Nancy Guinane

Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by Thursday morning latest. Names on the sick list will remain only for four weeks. Thank you.



WHAT'S ON IN OUR PARISH

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
MONDAY 19 OCTOBER	12.30PM CHARISMATIC PRAYERS GROUP AT ST CLARE NARTHEX — PRAYER MINISTRY AVAILABLE 6.45PM CHOIR REHEARSAL AT ST CLARE
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER	9.15AM LITTLE FRANNIE'S PLAYGROUP – SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFFROOM
WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER	8.00PM MOTHERS AND FATHERS PRAYER GROUP AT SFX
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER	10.00AM PRAYER SERVICE AT SFX FOR NANCY GUINANE RIP 7.00PM RCIA IN THE FRIARS ROOM
FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER	2.00PM WEDDING AT ST CLARE 7.00PM CONTEMPLATION OF THE GOSPEL WITH FR PHUONG AT ST CLARE
SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER	11.00AM WEDDING AT SFX 1.30PM WCC INTERFAITH DAY AT SFX
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

UPCOMING EVENTS:



ALL SOULS' DAY REMEMBRANCE MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST CLARE ON

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER AT 7PM.

ALL SAINTS DAY WILL BE CELEBRATED ON **SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER** AT ALL MASSES

AND THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER AT MIDDAY MASS

NOVEMBER MASS ENVELOPES &

REMEMBRANCE BOOK

During November, we offer parishioners the opportunity to have Mass offered for their deceased relatives and friends.

Envelopes will be available at each church from next weekend. Envelopes can be placed in the collection baskets or submitted to the Parish Office. Canon Law suggests a donation of \$10

The Remembrance Book will be placed at the front of the Churches and families are encouraged to list loved ones. Masses will be offered daily for those listed.

ITALIAN MASS FOR OUR DEARLY DEPARTED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Mass at the Box Hill Cemetery

Sunday 1 November at 3.00pm

Mass celebrated by Monsignor Franco Cavarra

ALL WELCOME

As you plan for the future, we invite you to consider making a lasting gift to SFX-St Clare Parish through your will. Your bequest will help support the mission and ministries of our parish, ensuring that future generations experience the Love, faith, and community we cherish today.

INFORMATION FOR ALL OUR PARISH GROUPS MAY BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/boxhill> (click on Parish Groups)

****Please check the church notice boards for further updates****



PARISH *Christmas* LUNCH

DECEMBER

6

11:30 AM

St Clare Hall

Cost: \$27 per adult, \$20 per child

MEAT & VEGETABLES | SALAD | DESSERTS | SOFT DRINK

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Contact the Parish Office by Monday 23 November

Phone: 9401 6371

Email: boxhill@cam.org.au

No payments on the day or refunds



PAYMENT OPTIONS:

CREDIT CARD VIA WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.MELBCATHOLIC.ORG/S/BOXHILL](https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/boxhill)

CLICK ON "DONATE"

BANK DEPOSIT: BSB. 083 347 ACC. 662202656. INCLUDE NAME IN REFERENCE

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES