

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



Saint Clare Church
138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North VIC 3129

1st October 2026

Dear Parishioners

27th Sunday Gospel message: *Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.* (Mt. 21:37-39) Jesus was killed by humanity, yet God transformed that act of human violence into the salvation of the world. This reveals God's almighty power and merciful love, which are far beyond human understanding. It is through faith in Jesus that we come to recognize and experience the goodness of God. As Jesus said, "No one can come to the Father except through me." Faith in Jesus brings us salvation and allows us to experience the mystery of God in our daily lives. Through His grace, God transforms our weaknesses and sinful ways into goodness and holiness, gradually sanctifying us and drawing us closer to Him.

This Sunday 4 October, the Church celebrates 800 years of St Francis of Assisi. Franciscans honour their founder, who chose poverty to be close to the poor. They celebrate 800 years of Franciscan service to the Church and society. *Francis discovered Christ in the poor, the marginalised and the minores—the 'lesser ones'—especially through his encounter with the leper. What had once seemed repulsive to him became a source of grace and conversion. He even gave his own order the name Friars Minor, the Lesser Brothers.* For 15 years, our Greater Box Hill Parish was entrusted to the pastoral care of the Franciscan community. We congratulate their milestone of 800 years and we pray for their vocation. This weekend at St Anthony's Capuchin Friary Church in Hawthorn celebrations commence. They invite you to join their celebrations. Please check their community website for further information. [Events | Capuchin Friars Australia](#)

Over the last few days, Pope Leo XIV has been on a four-day apostolic journey through France, where he was welcomed by enormous crowds. Nearly 800,000 people gathered along the Champs-Élysées in Paris for Mass. In his homily, Pope Leo encouraged the people of France to follow Jesus, the true source of happiness and peace. He invited everyone to look into the depths of their hearts and ask: "What is my deepest thirst? What am I really seeking in life?" We all long for happiness, love, peace, and fulfilment. Yet we can sometimes look to the world, relationships, success, or material things to satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts. Pope Leo reminded us to ask ourselves: From what source are we trying to quench our thirst? It is Jesus Christ who comes to meet each of us in the midst of our own life story. Through His Incarnation, He reveals Himself as the true source of living water—the only One who can truly satisfy the deepest thirst of the human heart. Indeed, only God can quench the thirst within us. When we seek the love of Jesus and open our hearts to Him, He meets us with His mercy and grace and gradually fulfils the deepest desires of our hearts. May we always turn to Jesus, trusting that in Him we will find the true happiness, peace, and fulfilment for which our hearts long.

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

As we commence October, we begin the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Each weekday, before the midday Mass, our Rosary group gathers to pray. I have personally found the Rosary to be a great source of strength and help in my spiritual life. Through praying the Rosary, my relationship with Mother Mary has grown deeper. I know that I need her prayers and guidance, and I am grateful to have her as a loving mother who continually leads us closer to Jesus. On 16 October, we will have an outdoor walking rosary prayer. We will begin at St Francis Xavier Church at 10:00 am and walk towards Box Hill Hospital. Along the way, we will pray for the people and communities of the City of Whitehorse, including local businesses and commerce, colleges, hospitals, aged care homes, residents, and visitors. I warmly invite you to come along and join us in prayer. Let us walk together, pray together, and entrust our community to the loving care of Jesus through the intercession of Mary.

On the 24 October, Whitehorse Churches Care will visit for an Interfaith Network Day at SFX. I would appreciate if a few parishioners may be present to welcome the group. I will share a little about our Catholic faith. Please join us to welcome them.

This Friday we celebrate the 1st Friday healing mass. We need God's healing and forgiveness. The healing mass helps us to remain in Jesus.

This Sunday **Daylight Savings** commences. Please adjust your clocks accordingly to ensure you are not late to mass.

Prayer Champion:

1. We pray for the Franciscan orders. May God bless them with abundant vocations and may the spirit and example of St Francis inspire many people to follow Christ through lives of faith, simplicity, humility, and service.
2. We pray for our parish; may God inspire us to serve and deepen our spiritual lives.

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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