

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



Saint Clare Church
138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North VIC 3129

22nd October 2026

Dear Parishioners

This 30th Sunday Ordinary times Gospel message: *You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.* (Mt. 22:37-40) Love is the power that sustains everything around us. The virtue of love empowers us to embrace life and find meaning in our existence. God is love, and Jesus teaches us that the truth of life begins with loving God with all our heart and soul. When we love God, we cultivate a deeper love within ourselves, which enables us to love others as we love ourselves. The world often seems to lack love because it is consumed by emptiness and illusion, creating laws and rules that can become burdens rather than expressions of love. True love, however, comes from within. By practising and exercising the virtue of love, we strengthen our capacity to love. The more we embrace love, the more love we have to share with ourselves, others, and the world around us.

Changes to the WWCC check

From 19 October, the Victoria Government has strengthened the WWCC application process by introducing mandatory online child safety training for all applications. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is currently reviewing these changes and their implementation. Please note that the new Victorian Government training does not replace the Archdiocese's existing Safeguarding Essentials training requirements, which remain mandatory for parish clergy, staff and volunteers. As an organisation, the Parish will be setting up a WWC Connect account in the coming weeks to meet our compliance requirements. We remind all volunteers that WWCCs can be renewed up to six months before expiry and up to three months after expiry.

Further information about these changes is available on the [Victorian Social Services Regulator website...](#)

This Saturday, we welcome the Whitehorse Interfaith Network to SFX. Around 50 people are expected to attend, including members from a Hindu temple in Blackburn. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to share and witness to our Catholic faith, build friendships, and foster mutual understanding between our faith communities. I would like to invite some volunteers to join us in welcoming our visitors. They may have questions about our Catholic faith, and it would be a great opportunity for us to share our beliefs and experiences with them in a spirit of openness, respect, and friendship. Your support and participation would be greatly appreciated.

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

Approximately 16 parishioners joined in the walking rosary last week. It was a beautiful sunny day. We wandered through Box Hill Garden Park. People were busy working and exercising, but we prayed for them and those in the Box Hill Hospital. It was good praying day.

Next week, Year 12 students will commence their VCE exams. It will be a very challenging and stressful time for them as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Please keep them in your prayers.

Next Thursday 29th October at 7pm we celebrate a memorial mass at St Clare for those who have passed away during 2026. We will continue to pray for them during the Feast of All Souls. Through our prayers, we show our love, care and support for their families during this difficult time. If you are available, please join us for Mass as we come together in prayer and remembrance.

Prayer Champion:

1. We pray for Yr 12 students who are preparing for their exams; may God bless them with wisdom and guide them through their final weeks of school.
2. We pray for all those attending the 2026 Melbourne Synod on the weekend of 4 - 6 December.

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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