



TROUBADOUR

I am the Troubadour (Herald) of the Great King

*Parish of St Francis Xavier-St Clare
Greater Box Hill*

NEWSLETTER

80th Edition

March

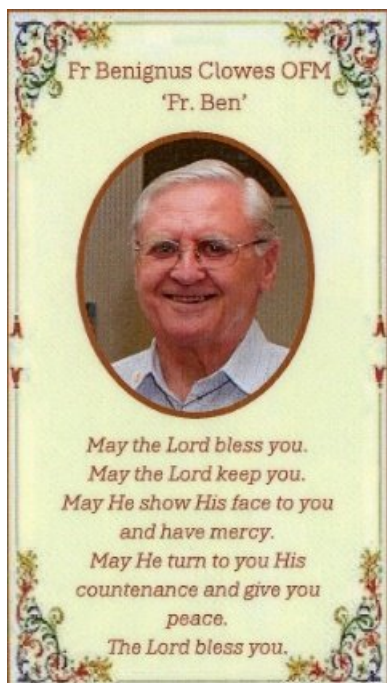
2026

Welcome 2026

While we are already two months into 2026, let's step back in time to recount the last few months of 2025.

Fr. Benignus Clowes OFM Remembered

Fr. Ben, who had passed away on the 9th November 2025 was remembered when Fr. Phuong celebrated Midday Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church.



After Mass, friends of Fr. Ben enjoyed a cuppa in the Friars' Room and recalled their dear friend, (see above). Parishioners were also given a Prayer Card.

Fr. Ben, who was much loved by GBH parishioners will be fondly remembered for his wonderful sense of humour.



Rite of Acceptance

Three Catechumens and one Candidate were welcomed by Fr. Phuong during the 10.15am Mass at St. Francis Xavier on Sunday 30th November 2025. Hansika, Brett, Dale and Ryan (pictured below) have been attending RCIA classes since August in preparation to becoming full members of the catholic faith and will receive the three sacraments, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on the 4th April 2026.



Altar servers at St. Francis Xavier

It is wonderful to see girls and boys stepping up and becoming altar servers. As you see, there are no rules regarding size!



Advent 2025

Advent begins with lighting the Advent Candle. Helen from St. Clare's is pictured below lighting the Advent Candle on the First Sunday of Advent at St. Clare's church.



Parish Christmas Lunch

Over 60 Parishioners and friends attended the Annual Parish Lunch on the 7th December and everyone enjoyed the beautiful food, see below.



Fr. Christmas came to hand out presents, helped by young elf Andrew and can be seen 'waiting in the wings', below.



Choir members are pictured above enjoying their lunch.



Fr. Christmas being assisted by Fr. Phuong and his elf

Carols for the Seniors

Our wonderful choir attended the Dorking Road Nursing Home to sing carols for our senior citizens on the 12th December. The picture below shows many smiling and happy choir faces.



The St. Clare crying room has become very popular with parents who have young children. Two little regular users are pictured here playing with a Nativity Scene during Advent.



Advent 2025

The Volunteers lunch which was held in the Friars' Room on Friday 19th December was very well attended and all had an enjoyable time catching up with friends and enjoying the scrumptious food.



Thank you to all volunteers who give of their time and talents in making Greater Box Hill Parish a happy and vibrant place to be. You all are very much appreciated.

The Combined Choir from St. Francis Xavier and St. Clare's churches sang Carols before the Family Mass on Christmas Eve at St. Francis Xavier church. The many nights of choir practice under the watchful gaze of Margaret, our organist, proved to be worthwhile because of the many encouraging comments.



The choir was under the direction of Lawrence Chow who also sings in the choir.

St. Clare
Nativity
Scene.



Lunar New Year Year of the Fire Horse

Parishioners at St. Clare's church welcomed the Lunar New Year with a lavish morning tea on the 15th February after the 9.00am Mass. Tables were brightly decorated and groaning with the amount of cakes, biscuits, Fortune Cookies and other Asian goodies. Angela is pictured below placing yet another plate of food on the table.



Thank you to Anna for preparing such a beautiful morning tea. Parishioners are pictured below having a cuppa, something to eat and enjoying the company of friends.



Fr. Ignatius celebrated Mass for the Lunar Year in St. Francis Xavier church, which was gaily decorated, on the 17th February.

Oranges symbolise wealth, good luck and prosperity due to their vibrant, gold like colour and were given to parishioners.



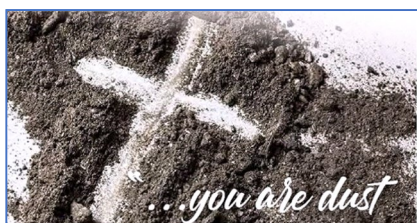
Lent 2025

Our Lenten journey started with a Shrivings Service which is a Christian tradition held on Shrove Tuesday where individuals confess their sins and receive absolution to prepare their hearts for the 40-day Lenten Fast. Shrive means to confess.

The service was followed by a pancake supper provided by Fr. Phuong in the Friars' Room. Frs Phuong and Ignatius are seen with Annie cleaning up after the supper finished.



Ash Wednesday was celebrated in both churches on the 18th February. Students from St. Francis Xavier School joined parishioners at the Midday Mass at St. Francis Xavier church. Fr. Phuong is pictured below blessing the Ashes assisted by a St. Francis Xavier student.



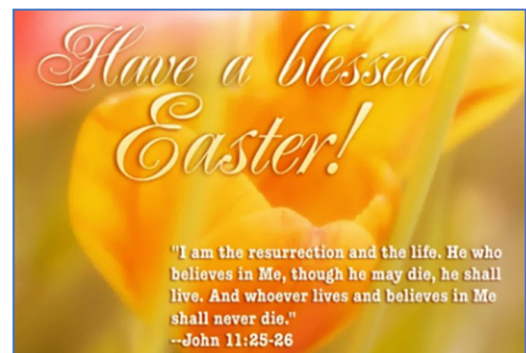
Rite of Election

A small group of parishioners and friends travelled to St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 22nd February to accompany Catechumens and Candidates who have been attending classes since last August to the Rite of Election. Archbishop Peter Comensoli welcomed the congregation and after Readings, our GBH people presented their scroll to the archbishop. RCIA Candidates, Catechumens and friends are , pictured below.



As mentioned above, classes have been held since August last year and conducted by Jonathan Hili. Many thanks to Jonathan for all his hard work in preparing our Catechumens and Candidates.

An Easter Blessing



Seen at St. Clare 's recently

Mother Nature at her best, just resting.

