



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

Entrance

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

20 September 2026

First Reading Is 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take
pity on him,

to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who
speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. *(R.)*
2. The Lord is kind and full of
compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. *(R.)*

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by
my life or by my death. Life to me, of course,
is Christ, but then death would bring me
something more; but then again, if living in
this body means doing work which is having
good results – I do not know what I should
choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want
to be gone and be with Christ, which would
be very much the better, but for me to stay
alive in this body is a more urgent need for
your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that
would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mt 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom
of heaven is like a landowner going out at
daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard.
He made an agreement with the workers
for one denarius a day, and sent them to
his vineyard. Going out at about the third
hour he saw others standing idle in the
market place and said to them, "You go
to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair
wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour
and again at about the ninth hour, he went
out and did the same. Then at about the
eleventh hour he went out and found more



men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

St Francis Xavier Church

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St Clare Church

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Box Hill North 3129

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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.



This Sunday, 20 September 2026, we give thanks for the thousands of staff and volunteers across Catholic social services who accompany people experiencing poverty, disadvantage and marginalisation throughout Victoria. As we celebrate **Social Services Sunday**, we recognise the need for encounter. Passion for connection and meeting others creates the kinship that is imperative in times of hardship and for building strong communities. Through these encounters, we recognise the dignity of every person and stand alongside those who may otherwise go unheard. Catholic social services put this call into practice every day through accompaniment, advocacy, and practical support. This **Social Services Sunday**, we are invited not only to give thanks for this work, but to consider our own contribution: Who is experiencing hardship around us? Who is already walking beside them? How might we strengthen and support that work?



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

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

LINKS ALSO FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

September

<https://volunteersignup.org/M8J88>

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU

NEW STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

COMMENCE ON 4 OCTOBER.

COLLECTION OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN BOTH CHURCHES AT THE END OF THIS MONTH

Healing mass 1st Friday of the month at SFX

&

1st Saturday of the month at St Clare



Come and share your faith in

"Word of Life"

We welcome all of you to join us on Tuesday evenings to read the scriptures and share your faith and your relationship with God.

Mr Ian Hamilton from the Focolare Community will be hosting in their community house on the

4th Tuesday of the month

Our next meeting is on

22nd September 7:30pm

at

7 Mersey Street, Box Hill North

All welcome



Synod 2026

For further information please visit:

[Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Alice Mackay, Luke Chong, Robert Boyce

ANNIVERSARY: Guy Pirona, Christina Healy, Kathleen Han, Kevin Scanlon, Maria Da Costa, Leung Kam Ping, Jack Harjit Singh, Katy Balasso, Cecilia Theresia Ferly Widjaja

RECENTLY DECEASED:

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 20 SEPTEMBER	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY 11.30AM BAPTISM AT SFX
MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER	
TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER	6.45PM CHOIR REHEARSAL AT ST CLARE
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER	11.00AM FUNERAL AT ST CLARE - ALEXANDER BRALETITCH RIP 8.00PM MOTHERS AND FATHERS PRAYER GROUP AT SFX
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER	7.00PM RCIA IN THE FRIARS ROOM
FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER	AFL GRAND FINAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY – PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 7.00PM CONTEMPLATION OF THE GOSPEL WITH FR PHUONG AT ST CLARE
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER	AFL GRAND FINAL DAY
SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 1.00PM PAST & PRESENT PARISHIONERS AFTERNOON TEA - ST CLARE NARTHEX

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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****

PHOTOS

Please be advised that photographs may be taken during Social Events and/or Masses at Greater Box Hill Parish. Please advise if you not want your photo to appear in the Parish Bulletin or any other form used by the Greater Box Hill Parish. *Thank you*