



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

Entrance

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true. Hear the
prayers of your servant, and of your people
Israel.

Acclamation

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

Communion

How precious is your mercy, O God! The
children of men seek shelter in the shadow of
your wings.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

13 September 2026

First Reading Sir 27:30–28:7

*Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins
will be forgiven.*

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the
vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the
Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes
resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by
the commandments.
Remember the commandments, and do not
bear your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High,
and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

*(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.*

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. (R.)

3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its
influence on others; if we live, we live for the
Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so
that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This
explains why Christ both died and came to life,
it was so that he might be Lord both of the
dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

***I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!***

Gospel Mt 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord,
how often must I forgive my brother if he
wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus
answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-
seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who decided to settle
his accounts with his servants. When the
reckoning began, they brought him a man
who owed ten thousand talents; but he had
no means of paying, so his master gave orders



that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

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.



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church.

In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

Caritas Australia's Women for the World Appeal

Safe childbirth shouldn't depend on luck. But in Papua New Guinea, many women still face pregnancy and childbirth without access to the care, equipment and support they need. Health centres are often under-resourced, and distance, cost and extreme weather can make reaching care a challenge. By supporting Caritas Australia's Women for the World appeal, you can help upgrade rural health centres, giving women a safer chance to bring new life into the world. Your gift today can help support safer pregnancies, safer births and healthier futures for mothers and babies.



Caritas AUSTRALIA | WOMEN for the WORLD

You can help mothers have a safer chance to bring new life into the world

DONATE NOW
caritas.org.au/wftw



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 ENVELOPE COLLECTION COMMENCES ON 4 OCTOBER.

COLLECTION OF ENVELOPES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN BOTH CHURCHES EARLY OCTOBER.



PARISH LADIES DRINKS IN THE FRIARS ROOM

GOLD COIN DONATION

EVERY 2ND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 5.00PM

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, Neville Large, Luke Chong, Robert Boyce, Andrea Ong

ANNIVERSARY: Wilfred & Cynthia Jayasuriya, Josefina Metral

RECENTLY DECEASED: Giovanna Mosca, Alexander Braletitch

*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 13 SEPTEMBER	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 10.15AM SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM)
MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER	12.30PM CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP AT ST CLARE NARTHEX – PRAYER MINISTRY AVAILABLE
TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER	9.15AM LITTLE FRANNIE'S PLAYGROUP – SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFFROOM 6.45PM CHOIR REHEARSAL AT ST CLARE
WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER	8.00PM MOTHERS AND FATHERS PRAYER GROUP AT SFX
THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED 7.00PM RCIA IN THE FRIARS ROOM
FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER	2.30PM WEDDING AT ST CLARE 7.00PM CONTEMPLATION OF THE GOSPEL WITH FR PHUONG AT ST CLARE
SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER	
SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY 11.30AM BAPTISM AT SFX

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Afternoon Tea at St Clare Church

In the Narthex

27th September 2026

Commencing at 1.00pm

Everyone welcome and please pass on to past parishioners as we would love to catch up with them. There is no need to book but we do ask to please bring a small plate to share.

Please contact the office for further details on Ph: 9401 6371

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*



SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

13 SEPTEMBER, 2026

All volunteers in our parish are required to:

- Complete the **Parish Census Card**
- hold a current **Working With Children Check**
- complete the **Safeguarding Essentials online training** module
- sign the **Code of Conduct**

Please complete the above at your earliest convenience to ensure our parish is fully compliant with the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's policies and the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

PARISH CENSUS CARD

Available in the church foyer or the Parish Office

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Web address: <https://www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check> to apply for, or renew, your WWCC. Link the card to the parish using the following details:

Organisation name - ST FRANCIS XAVIER and ST CLARE CHURCH (**Enter address manually otherwise it will default to the SFX Primary School**)

Postal number and street - 1087 WHITEHORSE RD

Suburb - BOX HILL

State - VIC

Postcode - 3128

Phone - 03 9401 6371

Email - boxhill@cam.org.au

Child-Related work field - 64 Religious organisations

Do not choose ST CLARE, 138 WOODHOUSE GROVE as the Organisation Name or Address.

SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING

To be completed once the WWCC is obtained.

Web address: <https://safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org/>

This compulsory module has been developed for all clergy and volunteers of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM). This module will provide you with foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This can be signed as part of the online training. Alternatively, a hard copy of the Code of Conduct can be obtained from the Parish Office.

Thank you for volunteering your time in the Parish.

Safeguarding Sunday

13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

LOVE PROTECTS

A day dedicated to nurturing safety, dignity and hope in every community.



OUR FAITH
Guides Us



OUR PEOPLE
Matter



OUR MISSION
Protects



**24TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Readings:

Sirach 27:30–28:7 · Psalm 103
Romans 14:7–9 · Matthew 18:21–35



LOVE IN ACTION

Inspired by 1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4, 7



OUR COMMITMENT

We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.



TOGETHER WE CAN

By embracing safeguarding as a shared responsibility, we create communities where everyone is valued, respected and safe.



PRAYER FOR SAFEGUARDING

Loving God, help us to love as you love to be patient, kind and protect the vulnerable. Give us the courage to speak the truth, the wisdom to act with justice, and the compassion to walk with those who have been harmed. Amen.

Real love actively shields the vulnerable, tells the truth, and never lets silence stand in for safety.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

YOUNG PERSON'S SAFEGUARDING REFERENCE GROUP

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



**ARE YOU 14-17?
DO YOU WANT TO HELP MAKE OUR CHURCH
SAFER AND MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU**