



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

Entrance

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Communion

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

30 August 2026

First Reading Jer 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

*(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.*

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)

3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)

4. For you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ**

**enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great
is the hope**

to which we are called.

Alleluia!



Gospel Mt 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

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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.

Your generous gift supports ministries across the Archdiocese — bringing the Good News to life not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026

melbournecatholic.org/archbishopsacampaign

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards.

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers.

The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting

Tuesday 22 September 2026

beginning 19:00 – 20:00

Location: via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation.

Express your interest by emailing
Deacon Kevin Pattison

Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

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

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

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

LINKS ALSO FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

August

<https://volunteersignup.org/KDRQB>

September

<https://volunteersignup.org/M8J88>

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU



Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters.

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for **Palms International Volunteering**, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific.

02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567

www.simplicityseptember.org.au



Synod 2026

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (c. 560 – 4 April 636), this prayer been used at councils, synods and other Church gatherings for hundreds of years. Every session of the Second Vatican Council began with the Adsumus Sancte Spiritus prayer.

For further information please visit:

[Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](#)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Mary Jane Sarabia, Nevenka Ondrasek

ANNIVERSARY: Elizabeth Pillay, Frank Fitzgerald, James Herbert, Peter Gonzalez, Marino Fabiani, Thomas Park

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 30 AUGUST	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 11.45AM SVDP BOX HILL CONFERENCE MEETING IN THE FRIARS ROOM
MONDAY 31 AUGUST	12.30PM CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP AT ST CLARE NARTHEX – PRAYER MINISTRY AVAILABLE
TUESDAY 01 SEPTEMBER	9.15AM LITTLE FRANNIE'S PLAYGROUP – SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFFROOM 6.45PM CHOIR REHEARSAL AT ST CLARE
WEDNESDAY 02 SEPTEMBER	4.00PM SACRAMENTAL FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES AT ST CLARE NARTHEX 8.00PM MOTHERS AND FATHERS PRAYER GROUP AT SFX
THURSDAY 03 SEPTEMBER	7.00PM RCIA IN THE FRIARS ROOM
FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER	7.00PM CONTEMPLATION OF THE GOSPEL WITH FR PHUONG AT ST CLARE
SATURDAY 05 SEPTEMBER	
SUNDAY 06 SEPTEMBER	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A FATHER'S DAY SVDP BOX HILL CONFERENCE MONTHLY COLLECTION AT BOTH CHURCHES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 1.00PM PAST & PRESENT PARISHIONERS AFTERNOON TEA - ST CLARE NARTHEX

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*