



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

Entrance

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Acclamation

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

Communion

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

27 September 2026

First Reading Ez 18:25-28

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phil 2:1-11

or shorter form Phil 2:1-5

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of
Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

*My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord;*

*I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Mt 21:28-32

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment.

Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!'

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<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.

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

27th October 7:30pm

at

7 Mersey Street, Box Hill North

All welcome



VOLUNTEER SIGN UP ROSTER

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2026

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

LINKS ALSO FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

September

<https://volunteersignup.org/M8J88>

October

volunteersignup.org/J3QPM

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU

NEW STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES COMMENCE ON 4 OCTOBER.

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

112TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES (WDMR) SUNDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2026



The theme for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Even Just One of These Children." To help celebrate this special day, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has developed online resources including liturgies for primary and secondary schools, homily notes, prayers of intercession, stories, and interviews.

Resources available at: <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/wdmr/2026>

Healing mass 1st Friday of the month at SFX

&

1st Saturday of the month at St Clare



Synod 2026

For further information please visit:

[Melbourne Synod 2026](#) | [Melbourne Catholic](#)

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Alice Mackay, Luke Chong, Robert Boyce, Dr Denis Rebic, Darren Ford, Pat Cleary, Tim Shallvey

ANNIVERSARY: Ioan Popa

RECENTLY DECEASED: Dan Yung Tso, Hanna Taouk

*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 27 SEPTEMBER	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A WORLD DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 1.00PM PAST & PRESENT PARISHIONERS AFTERNOON TEA - ST CLARE NARTHEX
MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER	
TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER	6.45PM CHOIR REHEARSAL AT ST CLARE (WILL MOVE TO MONDAY EVENINGS FROM OCT ONWARDS)
WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER	8.00PM MOTHERS AND FATHERS PRAYER GROUP AT SFX
THURSDAY 01 OCTOBER	7.00PM RCIA IN THE FRIARS ROOM
FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER	7.00PM CONTEMPLATION OF THE GOSPEL WITH FR PHUONG AT ST CLARE
SATURDAY 03 OCTOBER	
SUNDAY 04 OCTOBER	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A DAYLIGHT SAVINGS COMMENCES SVDP BOX HILL CONFERENCE MONTHLY COLLECTION AT BOTH CHURCHES 11.45AM SVDP BOX HILL CONFERENCE MEETING IN THE FRIARS ROOM

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*