



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

Entrance

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Mystery of Faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering to God.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 October 2026

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. *(R.)*

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. *(R.)*

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.**

Alleluia!



Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

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.



SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 10.30AM – 3.00PM

Join the Whitehorse Interfaith Network for a community bus tour exploring two places of worship within the City of Whitehorse.

Discover different faiths, cultures and traditions through shared stories, meaningful conversations and connection. The tour will visit SGNSS – Gurdwara Blackburn and St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Box Hill, providing an opportunity to learn more about the beliefs, practices and histories of these local faith communities.

A vegetarian lunch will be provided at SGNSS – Gurdwara Blackburn. Please note that dietary requirements cannot be accommodated. If you have specific dietary needs, you are welcome to bring your own lunch to enjoy during the tour.

Register here to secure your spot:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1621097>

PARISH Christmas LUNCH

DECEMBER | 6 | 11:30 AM

St Clare Hall
Cost: \$27 per adult, \$20 per child
MEAT & VEGETABLES | SALAD | DESSERTS | SOFT DRINK

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Contact the Parish Office by Monday 23 November
Phone: 9401 6371 Email: boxhill@cam.org.au
No payments on the day or refunds

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
CREDIT CARD VIA WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.MELBOCATHOLIC.ORG/S/BOXHILL](https://www.melbocatholic.org/s/boxhill)
CLICK ON "DONATE"
BANK DEPOSIT: BSB: 083 347 ACC: 662202656. INCLUDE NAME IN REFERENCE

COME ALONG AND ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES

Our elderly parishioners are warmly welcome to the lunch. Volunteers will be available to assist with buffet service.

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

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER, 2026

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

LINKS ALSO FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

October

volunteersignup.org/J3QPM

November

volunteersignup.org/3MED8

YOUR ASSISTANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THANK YOU

Changes to the WWCC check

From 19 October, the Victoria Government has strengthened the WWCC application process by introducing a mandatory online child safety training for all applications. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is currently reviewing these changes and their implementation.

Please note that the new Victorian Government training does not replace the Archdiocese's existing Safeguarding Essentials training requirements, which remain mandatory for parish clergy, staff and volunteers.

As an organisation, the Parish will be setting up a WWCC Connect account in the coming weeks to meet our compliance requirements. We remind all volunteers that WWCCs can be renewed up to six months before expiry and up to three months after expiry.

Further information about these changes are available on the [Victorian Social Services Regulator website...](https://www.vic.gov.au/victorian-social-services-regulator)

Many thanks to your ongoing commitment to helping our parish flourish.



Synod 2026

For further information please visit:
[Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](https://www.melbocatholic.org/s/synod2026)

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK: Darren Ford, Tina D'Andrea, Pope Leo

ANNIVERSARY: Rosa Calabro

RECENTLY DECEASED: Alfredo Cicchelli, Margaret Kirwan

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 25 OCTOBER	THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 11.30AM BAPTISM AT SFX
MONDAY 26 OCTOBER	12.30PM CHARISMATIC PRAYERS GROUP AT ST CLARE NARTHEX — PRAYER MINISTRY AVAILABLE 6.45PM CHOIR REHEARSAL AT ST CLARE
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER	9.15AM LITTLE FRANNIE'S PLAYGROUP – SFX PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFFROOM 10.00AM FUNERAL AT ST CLARE – ALFREDO CICCHELLI RIP 7.30PM SCRIPTURE READING AT FOCOLARE COMMUNITY - 7 MERSEY ST BOX HILL NORTH
WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER	8.00PM MOTHERS AND FATHERS PRAYER GROUP AT SFX
THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER	7.00PM RCIA IN THE FRIARS ROOM 7.00PM ALL SOULS' DAY REMEMBRANCE MASS AT ST CLARE
FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER	10.30AM FUNERAL AT ST CLARE – MARGARET KIRWIN RIP 7.00PM CONTEMPLATION OF THE GOSPEL WITH FR PHUONG AT ST CLARE
SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER	
SUNDAY 01 NOVEMBER	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B 11.30AM BAPTISM AT SFX 3.00PM ITALIAN REMEMBRANCE MASS AT BOX HILL CEMETERY

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER 11.30AM PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT ST CLARE HALL

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****