

**Saint Francis Xavier Church
Cnr Whitehorse & Dorking Rds
Box Hill VIC 3128**



**Saint Clare Church
138 Woodhouse Grove
Box Hill North VIC 3129**

29 October 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It was hectic this week as we first interpreted the new rules and then sought to implement them as quickly as possible. We can now move a small congregation back into the Church, but with different restrictions to last time. I am not sure why we are asked to avoid what worked well last time. Thank you to all who took the trouble to raise their voice as God's people and contact our politicians. Although parity with hospitality venues is still being denied us, we have received a small concession to keep us busy in the meantime.

Outdoor Masses do offer larger numbers for a congregation, but the impracticality evident from our experience with *Mass for Five* suggests we concentrate on the return to indoor celebrations. Permits to attend the Church or Parish House are no longer necessary. We will resume the assignment of Registrars at Masses, to check in, supervise and sanitize touch points. From November 9th we are permitted congregations of 20 indoors. Our aim is to return to our pre-covid Mass timetable as soon as possible.

The bulletin this weekend will contain all the details about signing up for attendance at Masses on [signup genius](#) and the accompanying protocols for Covid safety.

Next Monday is All Souls Day, *el día de los Muertos*. Traditionally, Mass is celebrated in remembrance of our dear departed. At Greater Box Hill Parish we have customarily invited to our Mass the families of all those whose funerals we have celebrated during the last 12 months. This year the Mass will be webcast at noon to Facebook and available thereafter on the Parish Facebook page. We have planned a visual tribute to those who have passed and Asher will provide a classical musical program featuring duets by Merryn and Nina Hughes, a solemn *Salve Regina* and Faure's *Pie Jesu*. Please join us either live at noon or later at your leisure on the parish Facebook page.

The Reconciliation session from 4-5pm on Saturdays, for which St Francis Xavier Church is renowned, is moving indoors to the reconciliation rooms from this weekend. There is a limit of 10 persons in the Church at a time. The outdoor Reconciliation structure on the East Porch of the Church will remain in place for the time being as a reminder of the lengths we were prepared to go to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation and lest we be compelled to revert to its use in the near future.

Greater Box Hill Parish

St Francis Xavier & St Clare Parish Office
1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9401 6371 Email: boxhill@cam.org.au

I will be taking annual leave from Melbourne Cup day until 28th November. It is certainly a long time since I have needed a holiday break this much. Usually in November my priest colleagues and I would be heading to Byron Bay but this year we are restricted to 25km for the first week and then to Regional Victoria for the remainder. So it will be Bayside for the first week and then Lakes Entrance for the rest. I hope to explore some new golf courses.

Please continue to pray for our civic leaders. They are feeling incredible pressure and our prayers for their good judgement and welfare ultimately benefit everyone in our community.

Yours in Jesus Christ,



Fr Tony Kerin EV PP
Parish Priest

Important Links and Direct Deposit Account details are:

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**

You can also contribute via CDFPay via this link - [CDFpay for Greater Box Hill Parish](#).

Parish *Facebook* page <https://www.facebook.com/GBHparish>.

YouTube Channel. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF7pNUOT1tfuoz6Fu3VwPvg>

Parish **ZoomRoom**: <https://zoom.us/j/2886463871> open Friday 5pm for Friday drinks and Sunday at 11.10am for virtual morning tea.

Correspondence to Parish Office

St Francis Xavier & St Clare Parish
1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill VIC 3128 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9401 6371 Email: boxhill@cam.org.au