

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



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

8 October 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Last Monday I had the pleasure of announcing Mrs Mary Jones as the Principal at St Francis Xavier Primary School commencing in January 2021. Mary is currently the Head of Junior School at Genazzano FCJ College at Kew. She is well known to our School Staff from her extensive collaboration in the CEM ERO Data Collective. We are all excited by her appointment.

This week I also announced the death last Friday night of Fr Charlie McBride PE aged 93 years. Fr Charlie took over St Clare's Parish when Fr Leo Kelly retired in December 1997 and he administered the parish until January 1999 when Fr Terry O'Neill OFM was appointed Parish Priest of St Clare's in addition to St Francis Xavier Parish. The two parishes became one in 2012.

Fr Charlie's funeral will be conducted at St Clare's Church next Tuesday 13th October at 10.30am by Bishop Les Tomlinson. The funeral will be live streamed / webcast by Tobin Brothers. To access the webcast, please go to <https://tobinbrothers.com.au/> Funeral Notices/Webcast search bar and search for Fr Charles McBride. The burial will take place at the Priests' Crypt, Melbourne General Cemetery at 12:30pm.

An online petition has been created to address the inequality towards places of worship and people of faith in the Victorian government's 'Roadmap for Reopening'. The petition can be found on: <https://www.equalityforfaith.com.au/>. We are not asking for special treatment - just equal treatment. We ask you to please sign and distribute the petition to people you know and encourage them to do the same. The petition is receiving wide support, notably from the Victorian Council of Churches, and we are hopeful of imminent support from various multi-faith peak bodies through the Faith Communities Council of Victoria. It is already being endorsed by the Knights of the Southern Cross, The Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy, the Catholic Women's League and the Australian Catholic Medical Association.

Last weekend Pope Francis issued his third Encyclical Letter, ***Fratelli Tutti***. Francis illustrates his vital message using the parable of the Good Samaritan. "The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good."

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

“It is remarkable how the various characters in the story change, once confronted by the painful sight of the poor man on the roadside. The distinctions between Judean and Samaritan, priest and merchant, fade into insignificance. Now there are only two kinds of people: those who care for someone who is hurting and those who pass by; those who bend down to help and those who look the other way and hurry off. Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others? Will we bend down and help another to get up? This is today’s challenge, and we should not be afraid to face it. In moments of crisis, decisions become urgent. It could be said that, here and now, anyone who is neither a robber nor a passer-by is either injured himself or bearing an injured person on his shoulders.” FT.70.

I am astonished with how clearly Pope Francis has identified not only the folly of our age; (the illusion of communication, information without wisdom, the loss of a sense of history, the throwaway world) but also his simplicity in presenting an antidote to these problems. He pays great tribute to those Covid-19 heroes who, “in the midst of fear, responded by putting their lives on the line. We began to realize that our lives are interwoven with and sustained by ordinary people valiantly shaping the decisive events of our shared history: doctors, nurses, pharmacists, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caretakers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests and religious... They understood that no one is saved alone.” FT.54.

You can find the encyclical at

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

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

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