

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:10-14.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 69.

RESPONSE:

You who are poor, seek God, and your hearts will revive.

1. I pray to you, O Lord,
for a time of your favour.
In your great mercy, answer me, O God,
with your salvation that never fails.
Lord, answer, for your mercy is kind;
in your great compassion, turn towards me. *R*
2. As for me in my poverty and pain,
let your salvation, O God, raise me up.
Then I will praise God's name with a song;
I will glorify him with thanksgiving. *R*
3. The poor when they see it will be glad,
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy,
and does not spurn his own in their chains. *R*
4. For God will bring salvation to Sion,
and rebuild the cities of Judah.
The children of his servants shall inherit it;
those who love his name shall dwell there. *R*

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:15-20.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young, by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Fr Cyril Axelrod has done it again – he has written another book! Undaunted by being Deafblind, having already written an autobiography and a sequel, he now reflects prayerfully on his Jewish origins and spirituality, bringing these into harmony with his Christian faith. This book is an inspiration to all.

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The Jewish-Christian Quest of a Christian Bible Writer



Cyril B. Axelrod

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 14 Jul (St Camillus de Lellis, Pr)

Exodus 1:8-14.22; Psalm 124; Matthew 10:34-11:1

"If you commit a sin and take pleasure in it, the pleasure passes but the sin remains. But if you do something virtuous, even though you are tired, the tiredness passes but the virtue remains." – St Camillus

Tue 15 Jul St Bonaventure, BD

Exodus 2:1-15; Psalm 69; Matthew 11:20-24

St Bonaventure gives great counsel to those among us who are workaholics: "Come, let us give a little time to folly... and even in a melancholy day let us find time for an hour of pleasure."

Wed 16 Jul (Our Lady of Mt Carmel)

Exodus 3:1-6.9-12; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:25-27

"This fair olive-tree, led to the temple and, thence forward planted in the House of God and cultivated by the Spirit, she, as a fruitful olive-tree, became the abode of all virtues." – St John Damascene

Thu 17 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Exodus 3:13-20; Psalm 105; Matthew 11:28-30

Prayer involves listening with the 'ears of the heart.' It is a quiet listening that invites humility, in order to become attuned to voices other than one's own – and to learn from them.

Fri 18 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Exodus 11:10-12.14; Psalm 116; Matthew 12:1-8

God's laws are not constrictive but freeing. When we love without measure and forgive without blame, God's love is magnified through our merciful service to others. We are not to be slaves to petty thinking.

Sat 19 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Exodus 12:37-42; Psalm 136; Matthew 12:14-21

God always leaves us with the freedom to choose our path. Sometimes, if we make poor choices, we bear the consequences, but with Christ it is when we are most bruised and smoldering that he is closest to us.

Sun 20 Jul 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 18:1-10; Psalm 15; Luke 10:38-42

"Pausing and being still enough to notice love within and around ... challenges the notion that it is better to be busy and occupied. It refuses the call to be constantly distracted and perpetually plugged in." – Charles Howard

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Pr=Priest; B=Bishop; D=Doctor

Catholic Link

NICENE CREED 1700 years

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week III • 13 July 2025



On Holy Saturday night, the Church's most solemn night of the liturgical year, we sit in darkness, reflecting on the death and resurrection of Jesus. This sacred night, following the prayerful journey of Holy Week, marks the culmination of our salvation story. Through the Scripture readings proclaimed, we are drawn into the depths of God's mystery—Creator, Redeemer, and loving Father. The stories from Sacred Scripture paint a vivid picture of what it means to believe in "one God, the Father Almighty."

The first Easter reading recounts the creation story from Genesis. In majestic simplicity, God calls into being the heavens, earth, sea, and all living creatures. Though the text does not explicitly refer to God as "Father," as Christians we intuitively grasp this. He is the source of life, the One who breathes existence into all creation. Faith in the "Father Almighty" springs from this foundational truth: that the universe, in its beauty and order, points to a Creator whose power and love are infinite.

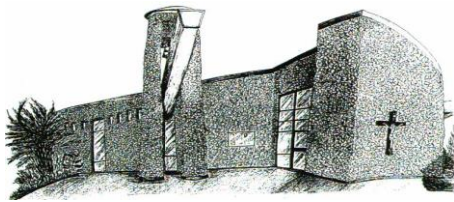
The second reading, also from the book of Genesis, recalls the story of our father in faith, Abraham, in particular his profound obedience and trust. God commands him to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac, and though the request is incomprehensible and heart-wrenching, Abraham submits in faith. Yet even here, it is God who acts first. He reveals Himself to Abraham, calls him by name, and establishes a covenant with him. This deeply personal relationship is the hallmark of God's love. Abraham's journey shows us that faith is not

only about acknowledging God's power but also about trusting in His plan.

The third reading takes us on a journey into the story of Exodus, where we see God's almighty hand at work, delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Through awe-inspiring signs, including the parting of the Red Sea, God demonstrates His power over creation. But His relationship with His people is more than one of power – it is intimate and loving. By revealing His name to Moses, God invites His people into a relationship, offering them not just liberation but also His personal care. The Exodus story reminds us that God is both transcendent and near; both omnipotent and deeply involved in the lives of His chosen people.

As the Israelites prepare to enter a land whose peoples worship foreign gods, Moses proclaims the *Shema*: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole being, and with your whole strength" (Deut. 6:4-5). This declaration is at the heart of our profession of faith and serves as a reminder of all we have professed by faith: God is Almighty, Creator of all, yet He reveals Himself personally to Abraham and Moses. He is not distant but deeply involved, demonstrating His care and covenantal love.

This is the foundation of our faith: *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty*. He is almighty because none is greater. He is Father because His love is personal, reaching each of us, calling us by name, and drawing us into the divine mystery of salvation.



St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays & Fridays 8.30am to 3.30pm
(Secretary is at Mass from 8 to 8.30am)

Parish office closed on Wednesdays

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8.00am to 12.30pm

**Email: secretary@stfrancisxavier.org.za
or bluff@aod.org.za**

Website: www.stfrancisxavier.org.za

*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive, as a
Parish, to grow into disciples of Jesus Christ,
Reaching out in Faith into a wider Community.*

Prayer of the Church (Divine Office):

15 minutes before weekday Masses.

Prayer Circle:

Contact Cay Loader 0314664474 / 0789216797

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Our long-term Seriously Sick
whose names are on the noticeboards, and for our
currently –

Seriously Sick:

Tashnim Dos Santos, Michael Tunley, Fr Chris
Neville, Merlyn Oakes, Andy Rossell, Cathy Barr
and Denise Hustler.

The Repose of the Soul of: Holy Family Sr Meryl
Foley (Fr Mike's sister)

CONFESSIONS: Please note that Fr Mike is
available for Personal Confessions on Saturday
afternoons from **16.00 - 17.00.**

ONLINE MASS: Live-streamed on Facebook
at the **Sunday 9:00am Mass**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS:

Sat 12 Jul 5.30pm

Annetta Nunn R.I.P. [Alvin & Family]

Brevin Buckley's Birthday [Family]

Sun 13 Jul 7.00am

Lettie O'Donoghue R.I.P. [Blumfield Family]

Jose Lopes & Ermelinda Dias R.I.P and Jose

Marcelino & Maria Da Conceição R.I.P. [Anabela]

Lizelle & Corne Couch's Birthdays [Family]

Sun 13 Jul 9.00am

All Parishioners

Mon 14 Jul 8.00am

NO HOLY MASS (Fr Mike to PMB)

Tue 15 Jul 5.30pm St Bonaventure

Dominic Ogle R.I.P. [Kerry & Family]

Wed 16 Jul 8.00am

George Hay R.I.P. [Betty & Pat]

Brenda Dunn's Birthday [Family]

Thu 17 Jul 5.30pm

Kerry-Lee Ogle's Special Intention

Fri 18 Jul 8.00am

Deceased Oblates of Mary Immaculate [Fr Mike]

Sat 19 Jul 5.30pm

Billy Megraj R.I.P. [Family]

Sun 20 Jul 7.00am

Immaculate Hlongwane's Birthday [Family]

Bernice Loelly's Birthday [Family]

Sun 20 Jul 9.00am

All Parishioners

Responsorial Psalm Response:
(Sat 5.30pm & Sun 9.00am)

**Turn to the Lord in your
need, and you will live.**

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

Sun 13 Jul

10.30am Umhlangano kaAnna Ocwebileyo
(St Anna Sodality) – Room 9

Tue 15 Jul

9.00am St Monica's Parents' Group – Church

6.30pm S S V P Meeting – Hall

Thu 17 Jul

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: How can I make
the most of the rest of my life? How Does
God guide us? – Hall

Fri 18 Jul

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall

Sat 19 Jul

1.30pm C W L Meeting – Hall

NOTICES:

REQUIEM MASS FOR SR MERYL FOLEY HF:

The parish mourns with Fr Mike on the passing of
his sister Meryl on Friday 4 July. Her Requiem Mass
will take place on Monday 14 July at 10:30am at St
Mary's Catholic Church, Pietermaritzburg.

SOUTHERN CROSS: Copies of the July issue are
available at the church entrance @ R40 each. See
July Headlines on noticeboards.

RETRouvaille: SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE –

The secret of change is to focus all of your energy
in building the new, not fighting the old. Next
program in Durban starts 29th /31st August. Call
0820 500 500 www.Durban@helpourmarriage.org

KARAOKE EVENING: The Social Committee
invites you to join them for the parish fundraising
Karaoke Evening on Friday 1 August from 6:30pm
in the hall. Further details will follow – please diarise
the date.

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE – In the footsteps of

St Eugene de Mazenod: – Founder of the Oblates
of Mary Immaculate: 18-26 November 2025, led by
Fr Nkululeko Meyiwa OMI. Please use the link for
further information.

SACRED MOMENTS DURING MASS: There are
two very sacred moments which are emphasized by
the kneeling down of the congregation. They are
the Eucharistic Prayer (especially after the Holy,
Holy) and 'Behold the Lamb of God.....'.

During these moments people should not be
walking around or taking children to the toilet.

A reminder – that parishioners should make an
effort to arrive at Sunday Mass on time. If you arrive
after the reading of the Gospel then you have
missed Mass, and should therefore attend another.

DEACON WRIGHT ON LEAVE: We wish Deacon
Malcolm & Sharon Wright Bon Voyage as they
depart on holiday to England this Sunday. They will
return to the parish at the end of August.

FAREWELL TO OUR VISITING SCHOLASTICS:

We bid farewell to our two Scholastics, Brother
Roderick and Brother Rodney, who return to
Cedara this Sunday. We have enjoyed their
company and wisdom imparted from their weekday
Mass homilies. We wish them well for their future
studies.

PARISH REGISTER: All parishioners are required
to check their Personal Details on the Parish
Register. Members of the PPC will be available
after all Masses to assist Parishioners to check and
verify their details, As this information is important
for the Parish Administration and Pastoral Care you
are asked to please cooperate.

