

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20-32.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138.

RESPONSE:

On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
You have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy temple. *R*
2. I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
You have exalted your name and your promise
over all.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul. *R*
3. The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
You give me life though I walk amid affliction;
you stretch out your hand against the anger
of my foes. *R*
4. With your right hand you save me;
the Lord will accomplish this for me.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands. *R*

SECOND READING: Colossians 2:12-14.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. You have received the spirit of sonship; in him we cry, 'Abba! Father! Alleluia.'

GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 28 Jul (St Victor I, PM)

Exodus 32:15-24.30-34; Psalm 106; Matthew 13:31-35
Pope St Victor I (198 or 199) is the earliest reigning African pope. Victor I, was a native African, of Berber origin, whose episcopate lasted for 11 years.

Tue 29 Jul Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus

1 John 4:7-16; Psalm 34; John 11:19-27
When we find ourselves in a low place we begin to realise how much we need to be robed in God's compassion, but perhaps just as important is learning how to offer our own compassion to our weaknesses.

Wed 30 Jul (St Peter Chrysologus, BD)

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; Matthew 13:44-46
"Listen to the Lord's appeal...Come, then, return to me and learn to know me as your father, who repays good for evil, love for injury, and boundless charity for piercing wounds." – St Peter Chrysologus

Thu 31 Jul St Ignatius of Loyola, Pr

Exodus 40:16-21.34-38; Psalm 84; Matthew 13:47-53
We must speak to God as a friend speaks to his friend, servant to his master; ... communicating to him all that concerns us, our thoughts, our fears, our projects, our desires..." – St Ignatius

Fri 1 Aug St Alphonsus Liguori, BD

Lev 23:1.4-11.15-16.27.34-37; Psalm 81; Matt 13:54-58
"Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends." – St Alphonsus

Sat 2 Aug (St Peter Julian Eymard, Pr)

Leviticus 25:1.8-17; Psalm 67; Matthew 14:1-12
"When we work hard, we must eat well. What a joy, that you can receive Holy Communion often! It's our life and support in this life – Receive Communion often, and Jesus will change you into himself." – St Peter Julian Eymard

Sun 3 Aug 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23; Psalm 90; Luke 12:13-21
What do you want to present when you face the Lord: a list of what you owned, or a list of whom you loved? Lord help me to clear away the stuff that keeps me from you and your people.

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

Catholic Link

NICENE CREED 1700 years

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week 1 • 27 July 2025



The Disciples Peter and John running to the sepulchre on the morning of the Resurrection, 1889 (Musée d'Orsay, Paris) by Eugene Burnand

The term *consubstantial* originates from Greek philosophy and signifies that Jesus is of the same substance or essence as God the Father. Due to its philosophical background, some of the Church Fathers at the Council of Nicaea were initially hesitant to include it in the Creed. They argued that faith is founded on Scripture and the lived experience of the first disciples, not on philosophical concepts.

In last week's article, we reflected on Peter's pivotal role in recognizing God's presence in Jesus through His miracles and signs. Our belief that Jesus is consubstantial with the Father is squarely based on His incarnation and resurrection. We shall see that Peter plays a central role once again.

Although the Gospels affirm that the risen Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene and her companions, the early Church placed greater emphasis on Peter's testimony regarding the resurrection. When Mary Magdalene and the others announced to the disciples that they had seen the risen Lord, Luke records that *"their story seemed like nonsense, and they did not believe them"* (Luke 24:11). John's Gospel presents a slightly more reserved account: *"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!'"* (John 20:18). The disciples' reaction? Complete silence.

Despite their disbelief, Luke tells us that Peter responded differently: *"Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened"* (Luke 24:12). Later, when the two disciples from Emmaus returned to Jerusalem to share their joy at recognizing Jesus in the breaking of the bread, Luke records that they

found the eleven gathered together, declaring, *"The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"* (Luke 24:34).

Peter's leadership in affirming the Resurrection is further emphasized in the Acts of the Apostles, where he presides over the selection of a replacement for Judas. He sets a clear requirement: *"It is necessary that one of the men who accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among us... become with us a witness to His resurrection"* (Acts 1:22). Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, also confirms Peter's significance: *"He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve"* (1 Corinthians 15:5).

For over three centuries, the Church remained steadfast in its belief that the risen Jesus is truly God, looking to Peter and his successors for guidance. However, this faith was shaken to its foundation when a priest named Arius challenged this belief. He discovered a passage in Proverbs: *"The Lord begot me, the beginning of His works..."* (Proverbs 8:22). Traditionally, the Church had interpreted this reference to Wisdom as synonymous with the Word made flesh in John's Gospel. But Arius argued, *"Before He was begotten or created or ordained or established, He did not exist."*

This teaching spread rapidly, causing great controversy and confusion. As we saw in the introductory *Link* article, the threat posed by Arianism was so serious that the Council of Nicaea was convened to clarify the Church's faith, affirming that the most precise expression of Christian belief was that Jesus is "consubstantial" with the Father, qualifying it with, *"God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God."*

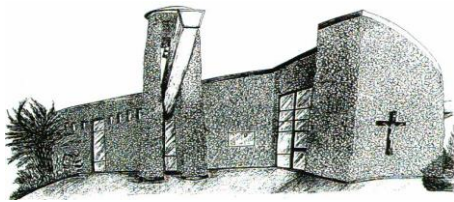
Just as he encountered Mary Magdalene with the question, *"Why are you weeping?"*, Jesus continues to come to those who mourn the death of loved ones.

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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

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*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,
Sr Meryl Foley HF and Denise Hustler.

The Repose of the Soul of: Diocesan Father
Wandile Cagwe.

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 05 Jul 9.00am

All Parishioners

Sat 05 Jul 5.30pm

Theresa Himunchul R.I.P. [Family]

Jermaine Paul's Healing [Family]

Liam Dominic Hurri's 1st Birthday [Gerald & Janet
Breda and Pam & Sherwin Hurri]

Sun 06 Jul 7.00am

Bluff Teenage Confirmants Special Intentions

Sun 06 Jul 9.00am

Maresce & Craig Mulqueeny's Special Intention

Nico Coles' Birthday [Family]

Cyril Joseph R.I.P. [Family]

Mon 07 Jul 8.00am

Sacha Emmanuel's Birthday [Family]

Jessica Buckley's Birthday [Family]

Tue 08 Jul 5.30pm

Chadley Joseph R.I.P. [Frankson Family]

Wed 09 Jul 8.00am

Mary Chakanyuka's Birthday [Family]

Chadley Joseph R.I.P. [Niemack Family]

Roy Houston R.I.P. [Family]

Thu 10 Jul 5.30pm

Leslie Emmanuel's Birthday [Family]

Fri 11 Jul 8.00am St Benedict

Wendy LaBonte [Sr Marie-Ann]

Sat 12 Jul 5.30pm

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

Sun 13 Jul 7.00am

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

Lizelle & Corne Couch's Birthdays [Family]

Sun 13 Jul 9.00am

All Parishioners

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

Sun 06 Jul

**REPOSITORY OPEN AFTER THE 7AM & 9AM
MASSES**

10.30am Umhlangano weNhliziyo kaJesu
(Sacred Heart Sodality) – Room 9

Mon 07 Jul

6.30pm PPC Ad Hoc Meeting – Boardroom

6.30pm Men's League Meeting – Hall

Tue 08 Jul

9.00am St Monica's Parents' Group – Church

Thu 10 Jul

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: The Holy Spirit – Hall

Fri 11 Jul

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall

NOTICES:

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES:

Kyle Brauns & Justine Cass on 12 July at Cedara.
Austin Johns & Cleonise Thomas on 19 July at SFX.

CUPPA4CANSA: The Catholic Women's League
thank parishioners for supporting their annual
Cuppa4CANSA tea, as well as your generous
donation. An amount of R1675 was forwarded to
the Cancer Association.

BLUFF S S V P FUNDRAISER DANCE: 25 July
6.30pm at Elarish – Bluff. Tickets @ R350 per
person, (includes 3-course meal). Members will
be selling tickets after all weekend Masses.

**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

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

SACRED MOMENTS DURING MASS: There are
two very sacred moments which are emphasised
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.

Responsorial Psalm Response:

(Sat 5.30pm & Sun 9.00am)

***Let all the earth cry out
to God with joy.***

