

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING: Genesis 18:1-10.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 15.

RESPONSE:

Lord, who may abide in your tent?

1. Whoever walks without fault;
who does what is just,
and speaks the truth from his heart.
Who does not slander with his tongue. *R*
2. Who does no wrong to a neighbour,
who casts no slur on a friend,
who looks with scorn on the wicked,
but honours those who fear the Lord. *R*
3. Who lends no money at interest,
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a one shall never be shaken. *R*

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:24-28.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

THE WEEK AHEAD Live the Word

Mon 21 Jul (St Lawrence of Brindisi, PrD)

Exodus 14:5-18; Exodus 15:1-6; Matthew 12:38-42

May we be inspired by St Lawrence's constant devotion to Scripture, coupled with great sensitivity and a keen appreciation for the needs of those whom he was called to serve.

Tue 22 Jul ST MARY MAGDALENE

Song 3:1-4; Psalm 63; John 20:1-2.11-18

When she runs to where the men are hiding and exclaims, "I have seen the Lord!" they dismiss her words. Because of her faithfulness, Mary becomes the bearer of the message that remains at the heart of Christian belief.

Wed 23 Jul (St Bridget of Sweden, R)

Exodus 16:1-5.9-15; Psalm 78; Matthew 13:1-9

St Bridget saw no contradiction between mystical experience and secular activity, and her life is a testimony to the possibility of a holy life in the marketplace.

Thu 24 Jul (St Sharbel Makhluf, Pr)

Exodus 19:1-2.9-11.16-20; Daniel 3:29-34; Matt 13:10-17

St Sharbel points us to God and invites us to co-operate generously with God's grace, no matter what our situation in life may be. May our deepening prayer life help us become more ready to make that response.

Fri 25 Jul ST JAMES, A

2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Psalm 126; Matthew 20:20-28

Jesus taught all the Apostles the lesson of humble service. The purpose of authority is to serve. They are not to impose their will on others, or lord it over them, but become servants of all.

Sat 26 Jul Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of Mary

Exodus 24:3-8; Psalm 50; Matt 13:24-30

This feast reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

Sun 27 Jul 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Luke 11:1-13

Spend your quiet time today reflecting on how much God has richly blessed your life. May your prayer today be one of quiet gratitude and thankfulness.

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Pr=Priest; D=Doctor; R=Religious; A=Apostle

Catholic Link

NICENE CREED 1700 years

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week IV • 20 July 2025

I Believe in One Lord Jesus Christ

Last week, we reflected on the first article of our faith, tracing its ancient roots to the faith of Abraham and Moses, who experienced the profound closeness and power of God. Today, we turn to the second article: *I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ*. In doing so we will examine how Peter became a beacon of faith for the first disciples and indeed, the whole Church.

All the Gospels consistently highlight Peter as one of the first disciples called by Jesus, chosen to be His close companion and the "rock" on which the Church is built. In the Gospel of Mark, we read: "As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea...." Matthew's account is almost identical to Mark's. Instead of "and his brother," Matthew writes: "...he saw two brothers." The call of Peter occurs later in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5. Interestingly, Luke does not mention Andrew at all. In Luke's account, the call is preceded by a miraculous catch of fish after Peter informs Jesus that they had fished all night and caught nothing. Overcome by the huge catch, Peter – though he does not yet explicitly call Jesus, "Lord" – reveals the depth of his faith by falling on his knees and acknowledging his sinfulness.

The Gospel of John situates the call of the first disciples near the River Jordan, where John the Baptist was baptizing. John and Andrew, disciples of John the Baptist, spend some time

with Jesus and later bring Simon Peter to Him. When Jesus meets Peter, John tells us that He "looked at him and said, 'You are Simon, son of John; you will be called Cephas' (which is translated as Peter)."

All four Gospels emphasize that Peter is among the first disciples and that he plays a central role. The intention is not to provide us with a strict historical sequence of events but rather to emphasize Peter's significance. It was Peter who became a pillar among the disciples. It was Peter to whom Jesus entrusted the keys of heaven. One could even argue that it was Peter's faith that determined the order of the Gospel tradition. Scholars unanimously agree that Mark was the first Gospel to be written. But the Gospel of Matthew de facto became the "first", thanks, no doubt, to its more comprehensive narrative. Regarding the pivotal moment where Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?", both Mark and Luke record Peter answering, "You are the Messiah" and "the Messiah of God," respectively. Only Matthew records Peter saying, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Matthew adds that it was the Father who revealed this truth to Peter, thereby reinforcing his status as first among the disciples.

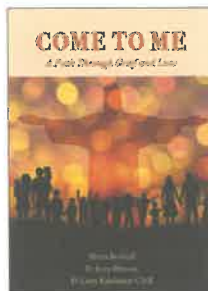
The Nicene Creed's profession, *I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ*, is founded upon the rock of Peter's faith – a faith that continues to inspire believers to this day. Amen! May it be so!



Christ Pantocrator from Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai, 6th C encaustic icon

Taken from Jesus' words, "Come to me all who labour and are burdened...", this book echoes the intimate and encouraging invitation of Jesus to go to him with our burdens.

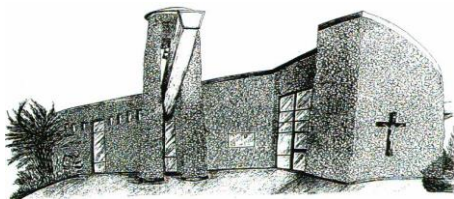
Maira Boshoff, from her years of experience in care ministry, helps us to name our pains, and Father Jerry Browne's reflections bring us closer to the Jesus who stretches out his hand of invitation. The book also involves readers in the process of reflection by bringing their own experience to bear on the various issues presented.



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plus delivery



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St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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Deacon Malcolm Wright H: 031 466 4524

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Gerrard Bernon (PPC Chairperson)

Chrystal Ally (Finance Chairperson)

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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@stfranciscxavier.org.za

or bluff@aod.org.za

Website: www.stfranciscxavier.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.

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 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]

Frances Bonhomme's Special Intention [Cindy]

Sun 20 Jul 9.00am

All Parishioners

Mon 21 Jul 8.00am

Shirley Ludewick's 80th Birthday [Family]

Sr Marie-Ann op

Tue 22 Jul 5.30pm ST MARY MAGDALENE

Deacon Malcolm's 35th Anniversary of Ordination [Family]

Wed 23 Jul 8.00am

Farouk Dawood R.I.P. [Fosia]

Eddie Oxley's Birthday [Family]

Pat Vickers' Safe Travelling Mercies

Thu 24 Jul 5.30pm

Lucy Lawlor R.I.P. [Bosch & Manos Families]

Naidoo Family's Thanksgiving for Prayers

Answered

Verona Paul's Special Intention [Candace & Blake]

Fri 25 Jul 8.00am ST JAMES

Sr Meryl Foley R.I.P. [Fr Mike]

Meth Family's Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered

Sat 26 Jul 5.30pm

All Grandparents [Brianne Frankson]

Doreen Pierce R.I.P. [Family]

Bernard MacDonald R.I.P. [Family]

Sun 27 Jul 7.00am

Ben Newton's Birthday [Newton Family]

Maria Vanto R.I.P. [Family]

Hilda Pierce's 80th Birthday [Family]

Sun 27 Jul 9.00am

All Parishioners

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

Sun 20 Jul

REPOSITORY OPEN AFTER THE 7AM & 9AM MASSES

Mon 21 Jul

6.30pm Men's League Meeting – Hall

Tue 22 Jul

9.00am St Monica's Parents' Group – Church

6.30pm Parish Finance Committee Meeting – Boardroom

6.30pm Social Committee Meeting – Big Classroom

Wed 23 Aug

6.30pm Women of Faith Meeting – Hall

Thu 24 Jul

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: How can I resist evil? Does God heal today? – Hall

Fri 25 Jul

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall

Sun 27 Jul

10.30am Junior Catechism- Hall Complex

10.30am Grade 4 GIFT Program – Boardroom

5.00pm Senior Catechism- Hall Complex

5.00pm Grade 11 GIFT Program – Boardroom

NOTICES:

CWL WOMEN'S DAY HIGH TEA: Saturday 9 August at 9.30am in the Parish Hall. To secure your ticket @ R200 each, please contact Ingrid Adriaanse on 072 408 3133.

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. For further details see the posters on the noticeboards – please diarise the date.

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

SOUTHERN CROSS: Copies of the July issue are still available at the church entrance @ R40 each.

PARISH SECRETARY ON ANNUAL LEAVE: Pat Vickers will be in the UK on leave from Thursday 24 July until 25 August. Noeleen Buckley will assist in the parish office on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings only, from 8.30am to 11.30pm – the office will be closed on Wednesdays.

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 <https://fowlertours.co.za/pilgrimages/france-with-lourdes/>

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.

SFX HALF-YEARLY DEDICATED GIVING STATEMENTS: Envelopes available from the entrance for those Dedicated Givers who have not supplied an email address.

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

**He who does justice
will live in the
presence of the Lord.**

