

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 66:18-21.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 117.

RESPONSE:

Go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations;
acclaim him, all you peoples! *R*
2. For his merciful love has prevailed over us;
and the Lord's faithfulness endures
forever. *R*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, but by me. Alleluia.

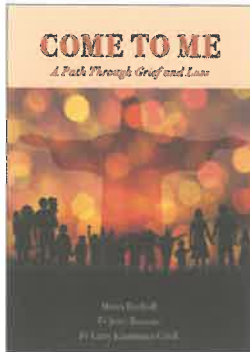
GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-30.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer the heart.

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.

Moirra 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.



R80
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THE WEEK AHEAD Live the Word

Mon 25 Aug (St Joseph of Calasanz, Pr)

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5.8-10; Psalm 149; Matthew 23:13-22

Everyone of us is called to be interiorly detached from the things of this world in a complete way, even though we retain our possessions. We are called to strive for perfection, where love of God is our single possession.

Tue 26 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Psalm 139; Matthew 23:23-26

The cure for envy is wholehearted generosity. Not just generosity with our money but generosity with our affections and our ability to rejoice in the blessings that others receive. God is generous beyond comprehension.

Wed 27 Aug St Monica

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm 139; Matthew 23:27-32

St Monica spent 33 years praying to see the conversion and baptism of her son, Augustine. Before she died, she told him that the only thing that made her wish to live was the desire to see him a Christian.

Thu 28 Aug St Augustine, BD

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Psalm 90; Matthew 24:42-51

"To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement." – St Augustine of Hippo

Fri 29 Aug Passion of St John the Baptist

Jeremiah 1:17-19; Psalm 71; Mark 6:17-29

Reflect upon the injustice inflicted upon both John and Jesus. They did not run away from injustice – they embraced it! How do we approach and deal with injustices, upon ourselves and upon others?

Sat 30 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Psalm 98; Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus is very clear: Greatness is found in servanthood; exaltation is enjoyed only through humility. Is the ideal lifestyle one of indulgence, entertainment, luxury, and the like? Not according to Jesus.

Sun 31 Aug 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 3:19-21.30-31; Psalm 68; Luke 14:1.7-14

"God, you were so gracious and patient with me! I didn't always get it right, but you still used me." – Richard Rohr OFM. God uses us in ways that we cannot possibly imagine, and often in spite of ourselves.

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

Catholic Link

NICENE CREED 1700 years

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week 1 • 24th August 2025

For Our Sake, Crucified, Died, Buried

It seems that our computers get to know us. After a while they seem to know our interests and our dislikes. Perhaps this reinforces the idea that repetition is the mother of memory.

Already in the Creed we have noticed that The Word of God came to our world *for us and for our salvation*. Today see that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried for our sake.

All the wonders of the world, all the mysteries of our faith, all the works of God are *for us and for our salvation*. Jesus is the supreme model and example: *Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* (John 13:34).

St Paul remarked in a letter to the Corinthian Christians that the idea of a crucified Christ was a stumbling block they could not get over (1 Cor 1:25). For centuries the Jews had been praying for a Messiah and the last thing on their minds was that the Messiah should be executed as a common criminal. Likewise, the Greeks, said Paul, simply dismiss the whole thing as "madness". Even still today, many cannot take in the claim that the crucifixion of Christ is a divine gesture of unconditional love.

The Gospel writers exercise considerable restraint in depicting the physical sufferings of Christ. Their great concern is to communicate something of the meaning of the sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross. They were writing a good while after the Ascension, so they had a different perspective on Good Friday. They glimpsed the bigger picture, that the Father wanted Jesus to be His love made visible for

humanity, even in the teeth of humanity's rejection of His Son.

The mention of Pontius Pilate grounds the story of the Passion of Jesus in history. The trial, the verdict delivered, the atrocious torture and crucifixion, all occurred under the command of a real historical person, the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate. No one could argue that Jesus was not scourged, not nailed to the cross or that he did not die.

While the death of Jesus had a profound significance for the human race, it remained a horrific experience. Not only did he physically suffer for us, but he also endured a spiritual desolation, a sense of abandonment, and betrayal. But this suffering and this death meant the death of sin. Not that sin was rendered impossible but that it has now no lasting power over humanity.

In the Liturgy for the Dead, we read that "life is changed, not ended."

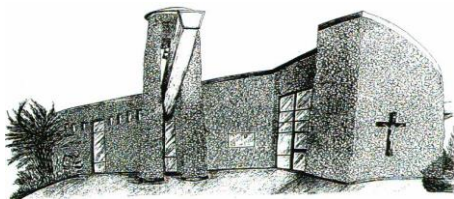
In his burial Jesus completed his last messianic mission in his descent to the deepest depth of human experience. In the Apostles Creed, this is described vividly "He descended into Hell". The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us "Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him" (CCC, 633). A much earlier text put it poetically:

"God has fallen asleep in the flesh, and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began".



Descent from the Cross, Rubens, 1616–17





St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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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@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

The Repose of the Souls of:

Barbara Grabarska and Ethnie Hodnett

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 23 Aug 5.30pm

All Parishioners

Sun 24 Aug 7.00am

Abongile Vanto R.I.P. [Family]

Norman Dhunraj's Birthday [Family]

Michael Wood R.I.P. [Family]

Sun 24 Aug 9.00am

Raheem Jooman's Birthday [Family]

Magdeline George's Birthday [Jooman Family]

Maria and Manuel Marcelino R.I.P. [Family]

Mon 25 Aug 8.00am

Leila Kalidin's Birthday [Family]

Tue 26 Aug 5.30pm

Nolan King R.I.P. [Family]

Leeann king and family Special Intentions [Liz]

Leeann Manuel's Birthday Intentions.[Family]

Wed 27 Aug 8.00am St Monica

Deceased Members of St Monica's Parents Group

Thu 28 Aug 5.30pm St Augustine

Dhunraj Family's Special Intentions. [Family]

Edmund and Elizabeth Dimba R.I.P. [Family]

**Fri 29 Aug 8.00am The Passion of St John
the Baptist**

Sat 30 Aug 5.30pm

All Parishioners

Sun 31 Aug 7.00am

Thobile Mthembu's Birthday [Family]

Sun 31 Aug 9.00am

Desiree Manuel's Birthday [Family]

Zael & Harley Goodman's Birthdays [Family]

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

Sun 24 Aug

10.30am Junior Catechism- Hall Complex

10.30am Grade 4 GIFT Program – Boardroom

5.00pm Senior Catechism- Hall Complex

Tue 26 Aug

9.00am St Monica's Parents' Group – Church

Thu 28 Aug

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: The Mass as Source
& Summit of Christian Life – Hall

Fri 29 Aug

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall

NOTICES:

Elections for the New Parish Pastoral Council to
take place at all Masses this weekend, details to
be explained at Mass.

August Edition of the Southern Cross still available
at R40 a copy.

Alpha Marriage Enrichment Course {Rev1}

{Dinner Date Night}

The Marriage Course is for couples who are
seeking to strengthen their relationship. Some
couples do the course to intentionally invest in their
relationship, others are looking to address more
specific challenges. Either way, the course offers
essential tools and practical ideas to help you build
a relationship that lasts a lifetime.

The course will run over 7 weeks on Wednesday
Evenings @18.30. Numbers are limited to 10
couples. First come First served will apply.
Commencing 10 September 2025.

Venue : Elarish Restaurant

Cost : R100.00 per person per evening and a **once
off** 100 for the Journal

If you are interested please complete the list at the
entrance of the church with your details .

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

*Go throughout the world
and tell the good News.*

