

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 113.

RESPONSE:

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor from the dust.

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord! May the name of the Lord be blest both now and forevermore! **R**
2. High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory. Who is like the Lord, our God, who dwells on high, who lowers himself to look down upon heaven and earth? **R**
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the ash heap he raises the poor, to set them in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-8.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 22 Sep (St Maurice & Companions, Ms)

Ezra 1:1-6; Psalm 126; Luke 8:16-18

Maurice, a Roman soldier, executed for refusing to renounce his Christian faith, said: "We are your soldiers, oh Emperor, but above all, we are God's servants," prioritising his religious beliefs over his military duty.

Tue 23 Sep St Pius of Pietrelcina, Pr

Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20; Psalm 122; Luke 8:19-21

Padre Pio, on praying from the heart: "You must speak to Jesus also with the heart, besides the lips; indeed, in certain cases you must speak to him only with the heart."

Wed 24 Sep Liturgy of the Day

Ezra 9:5-9; Psalm: Tobit 13:1-4, 6, 8; Luke 9:1-6

How important is it for us to know how deeply God loves us? How would this knowledge affect our daily lives? And what kind of response could we make for so great a gift?

Thu 25 Sep Liturgy of the Day

Haggai 1:1-8; Psalm 149; Luke 9:7-9

We don't look to Herod as a model for faith, but he certainly had a determination to find out just who Jesus was. Who do you say that he is? Is he a living presence in your life? Are you determined to know him better?

Fri 26 Sep (Ss Cosmas & Damian, Ms)

Haggai 1:15-2:9; Psalm 43; Luke 9:18-22

Renowned for their medical skills and selfless service to others, Cosmas and Damian's actions highlight themes of selfless service, faith in God, and the power of prayer for healing.

Sat 27 Sep St Vincent de Paul, Pr

Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15; Jeremiah 31:10-13; Luke 9:43-45

Renowned for his humility and service to the poor, St Vincent emphasized the need for gentleness, humility and compassion in serving them. He said: "Go to the poor. You will find God."

Sun 28 Sep 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Amos 6:1, 4-7; Psalm 146; Luke 16:19-31

"Seeing the world as a sacred text, and everything as worthy of our attention and presence... means that we might begin to see this as true within our own hearts as well." – Christine Valters Paintner

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Ms=Marlyrs, Pr=Priest

Catholic Link

NICENE CREED 1700 years

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week 1 • 21 September 2025

...And His Kingdom Will Have No End

We need not worry about political correctness in connection with the "Kingdom" of God. What is being referred to is not like any worldly political system of governance. It might just as well be called the "Republic" of God.

What is at stake is the great plan of God to share life and love with all humanity. Jesus himself used the language of kingship and kingdom in his preaching, especially in his parables, to paint a picture of good order, justice, and peace in a world community in harmony with "the loving kindness of the heart of our God" (Luke 1:78).

Jesus insisted that "the kingdom of God is at hand" for everyone; he made a special point of inviting, in the first place, sinners, the poor and the neglected. He accompanied his invitations with great signs, wonders, and miracles which would draw people around him and so build up the Kingdom of God on earth.

The signs that Jesus gave about the coming of the Kingdom of God fulfilled the messianic prophecies of the future reign of God. The formal inauguration of the Kingdom came about on Calvary with the liberation of humanity from the grip of evil.

The Paschal mystery of the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus endures in the Mysteries of the Church, the Sacraments. The reign of God on earth endures into eternity as the Nicene Creed proclaims, "his Kingdom will have no end".



Christ the King, a detail from the Ghent Altarpiece by Jan van Eyck. St Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent. 14th C.

On the Solemnity of Christ the King (the last Sunday of the liturgical year) we hear something of the kind of Kingdom that is truly God's: "an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace". This description of the Kingdom of God, enduring for ever, is not some woolly utopia to comfort the lazy. This kingdom is here already; it was initiated on Calvary and that is why followers of Jesus work to build up the reign of God here and now and in preparation of its final shape in the world to come. In no way does the future kingdom diminish the struggle for kingdom values in day-to-day life.

One of the early Christian writers, St Cyprian of Carthage (North Africa), wrote a treatise on The Lord's Prayer and in chapter 13 he offered an insight of his own which is still valuable in reflection on the Kingdom of God. Writing in the middle of the third century, about 260 A.D., he accepts the apostolic tradition that by praying that "thy kingdom come" we are asking that the kingdom be made present for us, in the same way as we ask that God's name be made holy in us. Then he says: "It may be that Christ himself is the Kingdom of God. He is himself the resurrection, because in him we rise again; so too he can be understood as the kingdom because in him we are to reign."

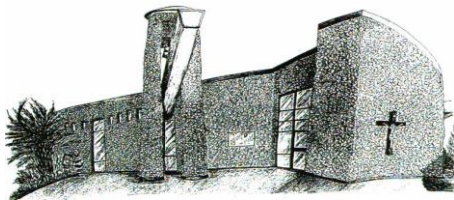
By our discipleship we ourselves already become builders of the Kingdom of God.

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Deacon Carl Emmanuel C: 082 493 8668

TBA (PPC Chairperson)

Chrystal Ally (Finance Chairperson)

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 8.30am to 3.30pm

(Secretary is at Mass from 8 to 8.30am)

Thursdays 8.00am to 12.30pm

Parish office now closed to parishioners on TUESDAYS, except for funeral arrangements.

**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 or our currently –

Seriously Sick:

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

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 20 Sep 5.30pm

Dunn Family's Thanksgiving

Sun 21 Sep 7.00am

Gabriela Hlangu's Birthday [Family]

Lyn Rossell's Birthday [Betty]

Sun 21 Sep 9.00am

All Parishioners

Mon 22 Sep 8.00am

Cathy Frankson's & Dominican Sr Felicity's Birthdays [Family]

Tue 23 Sep 5.30pm *St Pius of Pietrelcina*

Oblate Provincial

Wed 24 Sep 9.00am

Melissa Williams' Healing [Pat Vickers]

Thu 25 Sep 5.30pm

Lisele & Sherwyn King's Wedding Anniversary [Family]

Charmaine Emmanuel's Special Intention [Maree & Lavelle]

Fri 26 Sep 8.00am *Ss Cosmos & Damian*

Oblate Provincial

Sat 27 Sep 5.30pm

Taye Cochrane's Birthday [Family]

Janet Breda's Birthday [Gerald]

Thomas & Rennie Families

Sun 28 Sep 7.00am

All Parishioners

Sun 28 Sep 9.00am

All Bluff St Vincent de Paul Society Members

Maria Marcelino R.I.P. [Family]

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

STEWARDSHIP FINANCIAL REPORT at all weekend Masses

Sun 21 Sep REPOSITORY OPEN

10:30am MINISTRY FAIR (weather

permitting - postponed from last week)

10.30am Junior Catechism – Hall Complex

10.30am Grade 4 GIFT Program – Boardroom

5.00pm Senior Catechism – Hall Complex

Wed 24 Sep

9.00am Holy Mass – Church (*Public Holiday*)

Thu 25 Sep

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: Eschatology – The Last Things – Hall

Fri 26 Sep

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall

Sun 28 Sep

SSVP Members will serve refreshments after the 7am & 9am Masses

NOTICES:

2026 SPRINGS OF CARMEL BIBLE DIARIES:

The Repository has placed an order for 120 soft-cover Bible diaries for 2026. If you wish to book a copy, please write your name down on one of the sheets provided at the church entrance, and include your contact number and how many copies you wish to order. Make full payment by the end of November in cash at the Repository, or by EFT into the parish account using **BIBLE (and your name)** as a reference. You would need to email the Proof of Payment to either of the parish office email addresses. The parish FNB banking information is on the reverse of the order sheet (to copy on your phone), and paper copies are also available next to the order sheet.

RETROUVAILLE / HELP YOUR MARRIAGE: The next program for 2025 starts with Phase 1 on the weekend of Oct 31 to Nov 2. Please see the posters on the noticeboards.

ST ANNE'S PARISH CHESTERVILLE: In order to assist them with the building of their new parish church, we would like to ask parishioners to assist with the purchase of a window. or two, or part thereof. The windows are of various sizes and costs. Please see the sheet with options on the noticeboards, and contact the parish office with your details if you would like to participate.

DEACON BROTHER PATRICK REGNARD: It is with joy that we announce that Deacon Brother Patrick Regnard O.M.I. will be ordained to the priesthood early next year in our parish. Please keep him in your prayers.

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

**Praise the Lord,
who lifts up the poor.**

