

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:19-20.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 98.

RESPONSE:

The Lord comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn, raise a shout before the King, the Lord.. **R**
2. Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world, and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, and the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. **R**
3. He will judge the world with justice, and the peoples with fairness. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 17 Nov St Elizabeth of Hungary, R

1 Maccabees 1:10-15.41-43.54-57.62-64; Psalm 119; Luke 18:35-43

St Elizabeth of Hungary had a deep devotion to the poor, identifying Christ in those we serve: "It is Christ whom you have washed, fed and looked after."

Tue 18 Nov (Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul) 2 Macc 6:18-31; Ps 3; Lk 19:1-10

"When we can let go of what other people think and own our story, we gain access to our worthiness – the feeling that we are enough just as we are and that we are worthy of love and belonging." – Brené Brown

Wed 19 Nov Liturgy of the Day

2 Maccabees 7:1.20-31; Psalm 17; Luke 19:11-28
God is able to draw great good out of any situation. This is at the heart of the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus. With us, too, suffering and difficulty can become a powerful source of good.

Thu 20 Nov Liturgy of the Day

1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Psalm 50; Luke 19:41-44
"Each of us must turn inward and destroy in himself all that he thinks he ought to destroy in others. Every atom of hate that we add to this world makes it still more inhospitable" – Etty Hillesum.

Fri 21 Nov Presentation of Our Lady

Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:46-55; Matthew 12:46-50
Today's feast celebrates Mary's dedication to God from a young age and her role as a model for all Christians, with St John Damascene describing her as a "divine sanctuary".

Sat 22 Nov St Cecilia, VM

1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Psalm 101; Luke 20:27-40
St Cecilia, the patron saint of music, identified herself by her faith over her given name, saying "Men call me Cecilia, but my most beautiful name is that of Christian."

Sun 23 Nov CHRIST THE KING

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Psalm 122; Luke 23:35-43
We like to imagine that Jesus did not doubt or ever question God's love. The much greater message is that in his humanity, he did ask questions, did have doubts – and still remained faithful. This is the path of wisdom.

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)
R=Religious; V=Virgin; M=Marlyr

Catholic Link

NICENE CREED 1700 years

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week 1 • 16 November 2025

Being Church

Note the title of this article. It is not a detached academic reflection on "the Church" per se, but it involves us individually and collectively as the disciples of Christ who are the Church, the people of God.

What we want to do in this article is try to get a handle on how we, as God's people, understand ourselves now, this year, in the light of two important considerations: the 1700th year anniversary of the Nicene Creed, and the Jubilee Holy Year 2025, which is soon drawing to a close.

As Church, in this year 2025, we have celebrated the Nicene Creed not as a dry set of words which we rattle off each Sunday, but as a vibrant expression of our faith in the Most Holy Trinity, a faith rooted in baptism, and developed in our sacramental life, our love for God's word in the Scriptures, our communal life as brothers and sisters in Christ, and our mission to make him known. The *Catholic Link* articles based on each line of the Creed attempted to bring it to life in our spirituality and Christian practice, rather than see it as a short course in theology – Theology 101, as the expression goes. What we believe as Christians, and how we live, are two sides of the same coin.

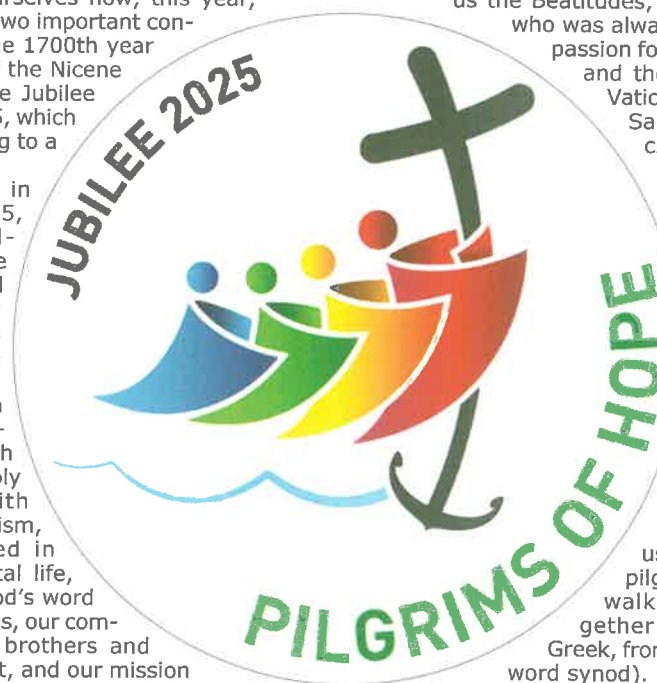
We also need to consider that this is a Jubilee Year. Jubilee is something celebrated every 25 years. We have Pope Francis to thank for promoting its engaging theme, "Pilgrims of Hope". But Pope Francis did so against a

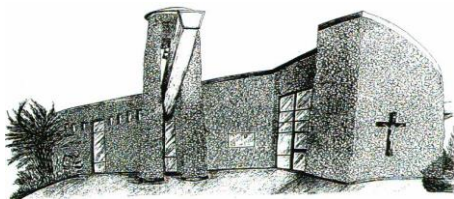
backdrop of the Synod on "synodality" which was spread over a few years. The process itself was a pilgrimage of hope in finding ways to implement Vatican Two's vision of the Church. Certainly, that vision was inspired by the Holy Spirit who reminded us that we are disciples of a humble man from Nazareth who taught

us the Beatitudes, who washed feet, who was always filled with compassion for the poor, the sick and the sinners. Prior to Vatican II, as good Pope Saint John XXIII saw clearly, the Church had lost its way in its triumphalistic assumption that in and of itself it was the Kingdom of God. No, like Christ himself, the Church's task is to proclaim the Kingdom of God for which in hope she prays, "Thy Kingdom come". Being Church for us means to be on pilgrimage, in hope, walking the road together ("syn hodos" in Greek, from which we get the word synod).

So, as we look back upon this year in the life of the Church, the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, the Jubilee Year in which Pope Francis named us all "pilgrims of hope", let us heed the encouragement of the Letter to the Hebrews 12:2: Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection." Indeed, Jesus walks the way with us, because he is the Way.

Being Church is being born again in Christ through baptism, living his life within us, loving God and others, and bringing the Good News of hope to our troubled world.





St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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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

Email: secretary@stfrancisxavier.org.za

or bluff@aod.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 outside noticeboard, and our currently –

Seriously Sick:

Tashnim Dos Santos, Michael Tunley, Fr Chris Neville, Merlyn Oakes, Andy Rossell and 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 15 Nov 5.30pm

All those on the Pious Lists

Mrs Jenny Surry's Special Intention [Sr Pru]

Sun 16 Nov 7.00am

All those on the Pious Lists

Eva Kalidin's Birthday [Family]

Ramon Fynn R.I.P. [Fynn Family]

Sun 16 Nov 9.00am

All those on the Pious Lists

All Parishioners

Mon 17 Nov 8.00am St Elizabeth of Hungary

All those on the Pious Lists

Sr Carol's Family Members

Derek Booyens R.I.P. [Family]

Tue 18 Nov 5.30pm

All those on the Pious Lists

Andrew Emmanuel R.I.P. [Maree]

Wed 19 Nov 8.00am

All those on the Pious Lists

Kendall Colborne's Birthday [Family]

Thu 20 Nov 5.30pm

All those on the Pious Lists

Hetty Joseph R.I.P. [Family]

Fri 21 Nov 8.00am Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary

All those on the Pious Lists

Maree Emmanuel's Special Intention

Sat 22 Nov 5.30pm CHRIST THE KING

All those on the Pious Lists

All Deceased Members of the Catholic Women's League

Sun 23 Nov 7.00am CHRIST THE KING

All those on the Pious Lists

All Parishioners

Sun 23 Nov 9.00am CHRIST THE KING

All those on the Pious Lists

All 2025 First Holy Communicants

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

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

Sun 16 Nov

10.30am Junior Catechism – Hall Complex

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

5.00pm Senior Catechism – Hall Complex

Tue 18 Nov

6.30pm S S V P Meeting – Hall

Wed 19 Nov

8.30am St Monica's Prayer Group – Church

Thu 20 Nov

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: The Sacrament: Of Penance & Reconciliation – Hall

Fri 21 Nov

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall

Sun 23 Nov FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

9.00am First Holy Communion Mass (Gr 4)

NOTICES:

NOVEMBER PIOUS LISTS: Pious List envelopes are still available at the church entrance.

ST ANNE'S PARISH CHESTERVILLE WINDOW

SALES DRIVE: Please see the sheet with options on the noticeboards, to donate towards the purchase of the windows, and contact SFX parish office with your details if you would like to participate.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK AND ANOINTING:

The Sacrament of the Sick (formerly known as Extreme Unction) is available to all Catholics prior to hospitalisation for an operation. An appointment may be made with Father Mike, via the parish office, to come through to the parish and receive such Sacrament. This also applies to parishioners who are bedridden at home or going into hospice.

ST MICHAELS PARISH FUNDRAISER:

Members of their PPC will man a table after all the weekend Masses, to sell tickets at R100 each, for the chance to win an AMAROK truck. The proceeds will be for their urgently needed parish property fencing

SPRINGS OF CARMEL 2026 BIBLE DIARIES:

Pre-ordered copies available from the parish office

during normal working hours. Proof of EFT pre-payment (emailed to the parish office) is required before collection. A list of those who have already paid by EFT or in cash, to date, is noted at the office.

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

PARISH GROUPS 2026 DATES: All parish groups are reminded to submit their 2026 meetings, events and requests for fundraising dates, to the parish office by the end of November, for collation into the 2026 Year Planner.

Responsorial Psalm Response:

(Sat 5:30pm & Sun 9.00am)

**The Lord comes
to rule the earth
with justice.**

