

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 72.

RESPONSE:

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace forever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement. *R*
2. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. *R*
3. For he shall save the needy when they cry, the poor, and those who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and the needy, and save the lives of the needy. *R*
4. May his name endure forever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed. *R*

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 8 Dec IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Genesis 3:9-15.20; Psalm 98; Luke 1:26-38

The Catechism of the Catholic Church highlights Mary's unique holiness from the moment of her conception, a grace given by God through Christ's merits to preserve her from all stain of original sin.

Tue 9 Dec (St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatzin)

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96; Matthew 18:12-14

Pope St John Paul II said of St Juan Diego: "Happy Juan Diego, true and faithful man!" and "his witness inspires a nation, encouraging brotherhood and reconciliation with indigenous peoples."

Wed 10 Dec (Our Lady of Loreto)

Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:28-30

"Work with great tranquillity, joy and magnanimity, for what is not done in one year can be done in another." – Loreto Sisters founder Mary Ward, emphasizing the importance of the spirit in which we do things.

Thu 11 Dec (St Damasus I, P)

Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:11-15

The reforms of Pope Damasus made Latin the principal liturgical language, emphasized the primacy of the Chair of Peter, and promoted the Church's official position within the Roman state.

Fri 12 Dec (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19

Our Lady's words to St John Diego: "Listen and understand, my littlest son, let nothing frighten and afflict you or trouble your heart" "Am I not here, I who am your mother?"

Sat 13 Dec St Lucy, VM

Sirach 48:1-4.9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:10-13

St Lucy's name shares the root 'luc' with the Latin word for light, 'lux'. Because of this connection, she is often depicted in art and religious custom as a bringer of light. She is the patron saint of eyes and sight.

Sun 14 Dec 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35:1-6.10; Psalm 146; Matthew 11:2-11

Growth in faith is a hard and sometimes painful thing for which to wait. It is a slow process... which often requires having to stretch ourselves. We cannot rush the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
P=Pope; V=Virgin; M=Martyr

Catholic Link

ADVENT PARADOX

2nd Sunday of Advent • Year A
Divine Office: Week II • 7 December 2025

Rich – Poor

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Reading these words of St Paul, the first thing we must do is discard any 21st Century notions we might apply to them. Obviously, they do not belong within the categories of high finance, banking, or investing on the stock exchange, because, ironically, all the money in the world would be way less than what St Paul means would make Jesus "rich". As Psalm 24 states, "the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" Ps 24:1. God is the "owner" and sovereign ruler of all the earth. Even David had to learn from God, when he wanted to build a magnificent temple for the Lord, that God already dwells in the "temple" of creation, the "temple" of the vastness and beauty of the entire cosmos.

So, when we say that Jesus, though rich, became poor for our sake, we are in effect saying that he shared in the fragility, the insecurity, and the "poverty" of being human. But to demonstrate this even more graphically, he also chose to be materially poor. We now know from archaeological and biblical scholarship that to have been a carpenter and the son of a carpenter in Nazareth at that time, Jesus would probably have occasionally been in the employ of the Roman Empire in the building of their trade-route city of Sepphoris nearby. This in turn would have meant slave wages – a pittance.

Jesus' economic poverty was also symbolic of his social and political poverty. In Palestine of the time, he would have been disenfranchised by living under a foreign power. His

was the poverty of powerlessness, vulnerability, and lack of resources.

But the poverty of Jesus that declares itself most graphically is the Christmas image of the stable where he was born. There was no room in the inn. So, no sterile and spotless labour wards for him, no incubators at hand if needed. Just the air warmed by the breaths of an ox and a donkey.

As we reflect on the Advent paradox

of "rich-poor", how does this challenge us? As a newly ordained priest, one of my first painful tasks was to conduct the funeral of a baby, born of a very poor young couple who lived in what we now call an informal settlement. After the burial, I suggested meeting in their home for a cup of tea (there were no other mourners). The father said, "But we are too poor to have a priest in our house." Taken aback, I thought of Jesus' own poverty, and his mission, which he declared in Luke 4: "He sent me to bring good news to the poor."

May this Advent evoke in us true Christ-like compassion for the poor and a resolve to find imaginative ways ourselves to bring good news to the poor and to share what we can give, remembering the challenge of Saint Teresa of Kolkata: "This is the paradox: that if you give until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love."



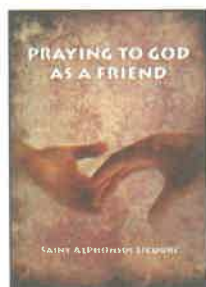
Photo: billycm on Pixabay: Founder Hands 4 Zero Poverty (www.h4zp.org)

The genius of Saint Alphonsus lies in his realization that all people everywhere are seeking intimacy with God.

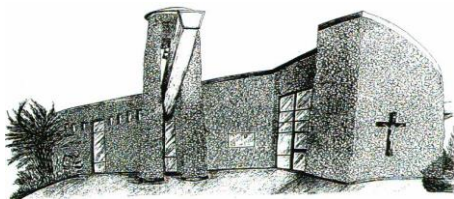
These pages will help you open your heart to the Lord and pour out your deepest cares and concerns, joys and sorrows – just as you would with your best friend.

This revised edition was prepared by Fr Seán Wales CSsR.

R50
plus delivery



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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

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 outside noticeboard, and our currently –

Seriously Sick:

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

The Repose of the Soul of: Bishop Edward Risi OMI

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 06 Dec 5.30pm ADVENT 2

All Parishioners

Sun 07 Dec 7.00am ADVENT 2

Bronwyn Summers' Birthday [Family]

Esther Davids 80th Birthday [Family]

Sun 07 Dec 9.00am ADVENT 2

Theresa Himunchul R.I.P. [Family]

Dion & Tracey Salie's 34th Wedding Anniversary [Family]

Virginia Sutherland's 92nd Birthday [Family]

Mon 08 Dec 8.00am Immaculate Conception Of Blessed Virgin Mary

Lucy & Manuel de Gouveia R.I.P. [John de Gouveia]

Mickey Jerome R.I.P. [Family]

Tue 09 Dec 5.30pm

Elaine Penn Clark's Birthday [Family]

Wed 10 Dec 8.00am

Dion Salie's Birthday [Family]

Thu 11 Dec 5.30pm

All Deceased Members of the Dimba Family [Simangele Dimba]

Fri 12 Dec 8.00am

Bishop Edward Risi OMI R.I.P. [Fr Mike]

Sat 13 Dec 5.30pm ADVENT 3

Noeleen Marescia's Intentions [Sr Pru]

Sun 14 Dec 7.00am ADVENT 3

Jody & Lera Meth's Safe Travelling Mercies [Family]

Sun 14 Dec 9.00am ADVENT 3

All Parishioners

Responsorial Psalm Response:

(Sat 5:30pm & Sun 9.00am)

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

**RE-DEDICATION OF OUR PARISH
CONSECRATION – All Masses**

2nd Collection for Bishops' Advent Appeal

Sat 6 & Sun 7 After all Masses – the Pauline Sisters will have a Book Sales table at the entrance.

REPOSITORY OPEN ON SUNDAY

Sun 07 Dec ADVENT 2

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

5.00pm Senior Catechism- Hall Complex
(Last for the year)

Mon 08 Dec

7.00pm Men's League Meeting – Hall

Tue 09 Dec

6.30pm S S V P Meeting – Hall

Wed 10 Dec

8.30am St Monica's Prayer Group – Church

6.30pm Advent Jubilee Celebration – Church & Hall

Thu 11 Dec

6.30pm General Choir Practice – Church

7.00pm RCIA 2026 Topic: The Sacrament of Matrimony – Hall

Fri 12 Dec

7.00pm Senior Youth – Hall **(Last of the year)**

Sun 14 Dec ADVENT 3

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

NOTICES:

ADVENT JUBILEE CELEBRATION: All are invited to the second Advent Prayer evening on Wednesday, 10 December 2025 at 6.30pm in the church, focussed on Mental Wellbeing, followed by a presentation in the Hall. Refreshments to follow.

ST ANNE'S PARISH CHESTERVILLE WINDOW

SALES DRIVE: The parish has paid over all the donations received so far, and Fr Rocco from St Anne's expresses his extreme gratitude for your generosity. Their need continues, so if you still wish to donate towards the purchase of the windows, please contact the SFX parish office.

DEDICATED GIVING FOR 2026: Weekly and Monthly envelopes are available for collection.

SOUTHERN CROSS: A few copies of the November issue are still available at the church entrance, as are the December Christmas issue copies, all @ R40 each.

CWL CHRISTMAS CAKE RAFFLE: Tickets on sale at all Masses, @ R2 ea, or R20 a sheet of 10, until the Draw on Sunday 21 December,

PARISH GROUPS 2026 DATES: Please submit your 2026 meetings, events and requests for fundraising dates, to the parish office by the 15th of December, for collation into the 2026 Year Planner.

PAULINE BOOKS & MEDIA: The Sisters will have a Book Sales' table at all the Masses this weekend. They will have extra copies of the 2026 Springs of Carmel Bible Diary for those who did not pre-order them. **Those who PREORDERED the 2026 Bible Diaries from the parish and have not yet paid for and collected them, are requested to NOT buy their copies from the Paulines, but to honour their order to the parish, by getting their copies from the parish office or the Repository.** The parish secretary will also have a table with the copies for collection at all Masses next weekend 13/14 December.

BLUFF OUTDOOR WORSHIP, CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT & PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY: 14 December at 5.00pm at the Bluff Showgrounds. See poster for further details.

