

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 22.

RESPONSE:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

1. All who see me deride me;
they curl their lips, they toss their heads;
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him, for in him he delights'. **R**
2. For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones. **R**
3. They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me! **R**
4. I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
'You who fear the Lord, give him praise;
all descendents of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendents of Israel'. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL: Luke 22:14-23:56.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 14 Apr HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27; John 12:1-11

Do we keep Jesus on a seeming pedestal, worshipping a caricature on a cross, while avoiding what he said and did. When we say that we love Jesus, is it more as a God-figure, or as someone to imitate?

Tue 15 Apr HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71; John 13:21-33,36-38

"Let us not tire of preaching love, for this is the force that will overcome the world. Even if we see waves of violence coming to drown out the fire of Christian love, love must win out." – St Oscar Romero

Wed 16 Apr HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 69; Matthew 26:14-25

"There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies." – Martin Luther King Jr.

Thu 17 Apr HOLY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8,11-14; Psalm 116; John 13:1-15

"The washing of the feet and the sacrament of the Eucharist: two expressions of one and the same mystery of love is entrusted to (Jesus') disciples ..." – St John Paul II

Fri 18 Apr GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31; John 18:1-19:42

By the cross we, too, are crucified with Christ; but alive in Christ. We are no more rebels, but servants; no more servants, but sons and daughters! – Frederic Farrar

Sat 19 Apr HOLY SATURDAY

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104; Luke 24:1-12

Without Easter, there would be no hope that suffering and abandonment might be tolerable. But with Easter, a way out becomes visible for human sorrows. – Hans Urs von Balthasar

Sun 20 Apr RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34,37-43; Psalm 118; John 20:1-9

Good Friday and Easter free us to think about other things far beyond our own personal fate, about the ultimate meaning of all life, suffering, and events; and we lay hold of a great hope. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)

Catholic Link

LENTEN JOURNEY

Palm Sunday • Year C
Divine Office: Week II • 13 April 2025

Jesus, Pilgrim

As we this Palm Sunday complete our Lenten Journey series on the Jubilee Year theme, "Pilgrims of Hope", there is a lovely insight of St Andrew of Crete that we can borrow. Bringing together our reality as pilgrims on this earth with that of Jesus himself, he writes: "Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today he returns from Bethany and proceeds of his own free will towards his holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with himself ... now comes of his own free will to make his journey to Jerusalem. He comes without

pomp or ostentation." St Andrew goes on to urge us to "run to accompany him as he hastens towards his passion.... Then we shall be able to receive the Word at his coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us."

These inspiring words deserve elaboration. St Andrew implies that Jesus is himself a pilgrim to Jerusalem, though it was to be a pilgrimage that ended in his passion and death. He had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem before, with Mary and Joseph, when he was 12 years old. But this one was different. Then he visited the Temple. This time he was to become the Temple. "Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up", he said in John 2:19. And John adds, "He was speaking of his body" (John 2:21).

The ultimate pilgrimage of a Christian is to participate in this. As St Andrew of Crete says, let us go to meet Christ where his final journey begins, in Bethany. To accompany Christ spiritually on his pilgrimage into Paschal Mystery is the beginning and end of what our Christian faith is. We are baptised into Christ to journey with him in suffering and death so that we may rise to new life in him (see Romans 6:1-11). If this is the heart of our faith, no wonder St Andrew says we must not hesitate, but "run to accompany him". But we must do so with complete humility and trust that he shows the way "without pomp or ostentation". It's as if there needs to be something

anonymous about our following of Christ. He himself warned us that all fasting, prayer and almsgiving must be "in secret" (Matthew 6:1-6). We are silent pilgrims with Christ, like him emptying ourselves to become servants of God and of others (Philippians 2:6-11).

Pope Francis has indeed given us a beautiful theme for this Jubilee Year 2025 – to be pilgrims of hope. From our own birth to our own death we are pilgrims, fellow travellers with Jesus, "keeping our eyes on him who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection" (Hebrews 12:2). There is nothing glib about Christian pilgrimage (e.g. "life's a journey – enjoy the ride") but rather a fundamental truth of our very identity and purpose as Christians – to be followers of Jesus in every sense of the word.



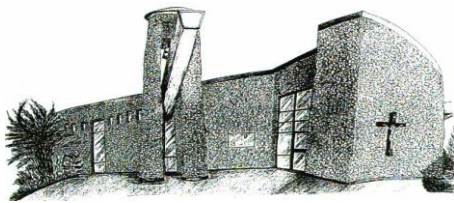
Christ's entry into Jerusalem, Pietro Lorenzetti,
Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi

Fr Cyril Axelrod has done it again – he has written another book! Undaunted by being Deafblind, having already written an autobiography and a sequel, he now reflects prayerfully on his Jewish origins and spirituality, bringing these into harmony with his Christian faith. This book is an inspiration to all.

R150
plus delivery



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St Francis Xavier Catholic Parish

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 8.30am to
3.30pm (Secretary is at Mass from 8 to 8.30am)

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 all 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, Manny Dos
Santos, Cathy Barr. and Sr Meryl Foley HF.

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 12 Apr 5.30pm Palm/Passion Sunday

Emmanuel Family [Carol & Selwyn]

Corlia Ogle's Special Intention [Family]

Sun 13 Apr 7.00am Palm/Passion Sunday

All Parishioners

Sun 13 Apr 9.00am Palm/Passion Sunday

Rhine Patrick Harris R.I.P. [Family]

Ethan King's Birthday [Family]

Lyn Rossell's Special Intentions [Pat]

Mon 14 Apr 8:00am

Brianne Frankson's Birthday [Family]

Jacque Anderson R.I.P. [Charles & Family]

Tue 15 Apr 5.30pm

Deceased Oblates of Mary Immaculate [Fr Mike]

Wed 16 Apr 8.00am

Fr Peter Lafferty R.I.P. [Frankson Family]

Thu 17 Apr 7.00pm Holy Thursday

Dane & Simone Kalidin's Wedding Anniversary
[Family]

Derek Booyen R.I.P. [Family]

Sat 19 Apr 7.00pm Easter Vigil

All Parishioners & RCIA 2025 Elect

Sun 20 Apr 7.00am Easter Sunday

Duane Dawson R.I.P. [Newton Family]

Moirra Sullivan R.I.P. [Blumfield Family]

Sun 20 Apr 9.00am Easter Sunday

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

Yvonne Logan R.I.P. [Family]

Romal Cooke's Birthday [Family]

Responsorial Psalm Response:

(Sat 5.30pm & Sun 9am)

***My God, my God, why have
you abandoned me?***

THIS WEEK'S DIARY:

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR BISHOPS' LENTEN
APPEAL AT ALL WEEKEND MASSES**

Sun 13 Apr PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

10:30am Umhlangano kaAnna Ocwebileyo
(St Anna Sodality) – Room 9

10.30am Gr 4 Parents GIFT Program – B/Room

10.30am Junior Catechism – Hall Complex

5.00pm Gr 11 Parents GIFT Program – B/Room

5.00pm Senior Catechism – Hall Complex

Mon 14 Apr

6.30pm Men's League Meeting – Hall

Wed 16 Apr

(10.00am Chrism Mass & Blessing of Oils at

Emmanuel Cathedral – All welcome to attend)

6.00pm General Choir Practice – Church

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Thu 17 Apr HOLY THURSDAY

(No 5.30pm Mass)

**7.00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (and
washing of feet), followed by Holy Hour till
midnight.** All invited to spend one hour before the
Altar of Repose in the Hall.

Fri 18 Apr GOOD FRIDAY

NOTE: Day of Fast & Abstinence -

Collection for Holy Land at both services

**8:00 for 8:30am Way of the Cross Procession
in the streets of the neighbourhood**

(see noticeboards re items to bring with you)

9.00am Stations of the Cross in the church

**3.00pm SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE
LORD'S PASSION**

Sat 19 Apr HOLY SATURDAY

(No 5.30pm Mass)

8.00am Office of Reading – Church (all are
welcome and encouraged to attend)

9.00am RCIA 2025 Retreat Session in the hall
[Elect, Sponsors & Team to attend]

**7.00pm EASTER VIGIL MASS OF THE
RESURRECTION** - Please bring a candle
and holder with you. **NB: Easter Offering**

Collection for the Formation of Oblate Priests.

Sun 20 Apr EASTER SUNDAY

**7.00am and 9.00am FAMILY MASS OF THE
RESURRECTION** - Children to bring Easter

Eggs for the poor/sick children, to either
of the two Easter morning Masses.

9.00am Mass includes Infant Baptisms

Mon 21 Apr

8:00am Mass – Public Holiday (Fr Mike has to
leave early for the airport for his Pilgrimage flight.)

NOTICES:

REPOSITORY ASSISTANTS URGENTLY

NEEDED: Contact Denise Du Bois 0827756145

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY REFLECTION:

Palm/Passion Sunday marks the beginning of Holy
Week. It is a day when we remember Jesus' entry
into Jerusalem and the events leading to His
Passion.

Jesus as King: Jesus enters Jerusalem on a
donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of a humble king.
The people welcome Him with shouts of joy,
recognizing His kingship.

Obedience to God's Will: In Philippians, Paul
writes about Jesus humbling Himself and becoming
obedient to death. This shows Jesus' commitment
to God's plan.

Suffering Servant: The reading from Isaiah
describes a servant who suffers and does not turn
away from insults. This points to Jesus' suffering
and His acceptance of it.

Betrayal and Loyalty: The Gospel of Luke
recounts Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. These
stories remind us of human weakness and the
importance of loyalty to Jesus.

The Passion of Christ: The Gospel reading details
Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death. It
highlights the suffering He endured for our
salvation.

Salvation Through Jesus: Philippians speaks of
Jesus being exalted by God and given the name
above all names. This shows that through His
suffering and resurrection, Jesus offers salvation to
all.

Palm Sunday Year C (Passion Sunday) invites us
to reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. It reminds
us of His love, sacrifice, and the salvation He offers.

