

BiTs & pieces

Readings: 29th -04th July 2026

Monday	...SS PETER & PAUL APOSTLE.....	Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday		Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday		Mt 8:28-34
Thursday		Mt 9:1-8
Friday	..ST THOMAS APOSTLE.....	Jn 20:24-29
Saturday		Jn 10:27

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity so that we may
journey together to eternal life and not stray from
the way of truth and what is right.
All this we ask of You, who are at work in
every place and time, in the communion
of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



NOTICES:

- 1) JUSTICE, PEACE & NON-VIOLENCE: SECURITY CLUSTER DAY-** All parishioners serving in the security sector, including the **SAPS, Metro Police, Traffic Officers, Correctional Services, SANDF, Private Security, Emergency Services, and related professions**, are warmly invited to the **Ecumenical Security Cluster Day**. This special day of prayer and reflection, organized by the Archdiocese of Pretoria, is an opportunity to celebrate and

support those dedicated to promoting peace, justice, and the safety of our communities.

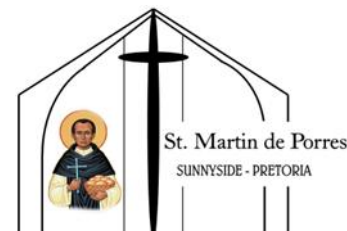
- **Date:** Saturday, **11 July 2026**
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Venue:** St. Martin De Porres Catholic Church, 129 Celliers Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria.

Kindly register your name with the parish office **by 6 July 2026** to assist with preparations.

- 2) INFANT BAPTISM CLASSES:** Parents who have registered their children for Infant Baptism are reminded that preparation classes will begin next Sunday, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- 3) PILGRIMAGE 2027 :** You are warmly invited to join Fr JP Mathebula on a spiritually enriching pilgrimage to Lourdes, Paris, Assisi, and Rome **from 3–13 September 2027**. This pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity for prayer, reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal as we visit some of the most sacred Christian sites in Europe, including the Grotto of Our Lady in Lourdes, the holy sites of Assisi, and the Vatican in Rome.

- ❖ **COST:** R55 200 per person (subject to change). For bookings and enquiries, please contact Omolemo Tours & Services on:
- ❖ ☎ **079 751 6559 / 082 778 2841**

All are welcome. Come and experience this faith-filled journey.



129 Celliers Street

Telephone/Fax: (012) 440-6190

Email: info@smdp-sunnyside.com

Website: www.saintmartindeporres.co.za

Follow us on **Facebook, Instagram & Tiktok**

**St Martin de Porres Parish,
Sunnyside Pretoria**

Administration:

Parish Priest: Fr. John Paul Mathebula

Email: info@smdp-sunnyside.com

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Fridays: **08:30 – 10:30**

Wednesday & Thursday: **16:30 – 18:30**

Parish Services

Weekday Masses: Tuesday to Friday: 08h00
(First Friday at 17h30)

Fridays – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 12h00 - 17h30.

HOLY HOUR ADORATION: Every First Thursday of the Month, immediately after the Morning Mass

Sunday Mass: 08h00 and 10h30

FINANCE: Pledge /Tithe Administrator

Contact: finance@smdp-sunnyside.com

Banking Details:

Name: Sunnyside Catholic Church

Bank: Standard Bank

Account Number: 011512172

Branch Number: 010645

Ref: Pledge number or Surname

28th JUNE 2026

13th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME- YEAR A

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11.14-16

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89

I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4.8-11

Gospel Acclamation:

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

ALLELUIA

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

1. Confessions: Saturdays 17:00 – 18:00

2. Infant Baptism: Date will be communicated soon.

Meetings :

1. La Voix des Anges (LVDA) : Mon & Fri, 17H30

2. St. Anthony Prayer Group: Every Tuesday after the 8am Mass.

3. Neo Catechumenal Way: Tuesdays, 19H00

4. French prayer group: Wed, 18H00 – 19H30 & Sat 16H00 – 17H00

5. St Cecilia: Tues 18H00 & Sat 10H30 am

6. Legion of Mary: Sat 08h00

7. Women's Group: Every 2nd month on 1st Saturday for prayer and meeting after 10H30 mass.

8. Sacred Heart: Every 1st Sunday after 10H30 mass

9. St Anne: Every Thursday at 18H00

10. Daughters of St Anne: Every 2nd Sunday 09H00

11. Bible Sharing Group: Thursday's at 18H00

12. Sons and Daughters of St Joseph: Every 1st and 3rd Sundays after 8H00.

Catechism classes:

- **Children & youth:** Sunday 09H00

- **Adults (RCIA):** Sunday 09H00

Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles (June 29, 2026)



The Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul is celebrated in all churches on June 29. Peter and Paul, the apostles of Christ, represent two pillars of the Church and are witnesses of the faith who left an indelible mark on salvation history. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Peter, called to be the foundation of the Church, reminds us of the importance of living a life of faith and bearing witness to Christ. Paul, on the other hand, exhorts us to courageously and devotedly live out the Christian call, bringing the Good News of Christ to all nations.

It was the Holy Spirit Who inspired Peter's Proclamation of the Good News to all in Jerusalem on the day of the Pentecost bringing the Church into living action. Peter made missionary journeys to Lydda, Joppa and Caesarea and convened the first Council in Jerusalem. Peter wrote two epistles addressed to the whole Church. He was martyred by crucifixion under the emperor Nero. Paul the "Apostle to the Gentiles" and the greatest missionary was a Roman citizen by birth as he was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, a Province of Rome.

His original name was Saul. He was trained as a tent-maker and practiced that trade. As a Pharisee he was sent to Jerusalem by his parents to study the Mosaic Law under the great Rabbi Gamaliel. Well-versed in the Scriptures, he became a religious fanatic and was ready to destroy the Christian faith. When Stephen was stoned to

death by Jewish fanatics, Saul was there to support them. But he was miraculously converted on his way to Damascus to arrest the Christians. He made several missionary journeys, converted hundreds of Jews and Gentiles and established Church communities. He wrote 14 epistles. He was arrested and kept in prison for two years in Caesarea and two more years in Rome. Finally, he was martyred by beheading at Tre Fontane in Rome. Let us pray for the apostolic zeal and missionary spirit of Saints Peter & Paul.

HE WILL SUPPLY YOUR NEEDS

"Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me."

These words might sound strange but Jesus is not asking us not to love our parents or our children. Since the love for our family members is dear and important to us, Jesus is rather asking us to give him more of that love. In fact, to love him more than we love our family members. Our love for God and for the things of God should always come before the love for family and personal interests. He once told us: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."** This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22.37). This is what Jesus is saying when he tells us today that he who loves father or mother or children more than him is not worthy of him. When we love God first and above everything else, then we can know how to love our family and friends.

It is humanly natural to love our family members. However, Jesus demands that the fount or well spring of our love is divinely based. If our love springs out of the love God has for us, that resource, since it is divine and almighty, will give us the capacity to love with a love that will be far greater than the love we can have just loving

out of our human capacity to love. Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing." In today's gospel Jesus said: "Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me." The cross Jesus is calling on us to bear is to die to trying to live our lives out of our own personal capacity to live without Jesus but rather to rise to a new life of living our lives in Christ. Whoever tries to get along without God is doomed.

The love of God also involves welcoming and loving those who work for God and those who assist in the works of His Church. Jesus highlighted this in the Gospel: "Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man's reward". The truth is that every love we give to God or done for the sake of God, comes back to us. Nothing given to God is ever forgotten. God remembers our love and sacrifices because he cannot afford to owe us. He pays back by rewarding us beyond measure. This is what we read about in the first Reading involving the Prophet Elisha and the woman at Shunem.

On her own initiative, the woman decided to provide the needs of the prophet whenever he passed by their house. She even told her husband: "Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof". She saw Elisha as a holy man and thus offered him her hospitality. Because of her kindness to the holy man she received a holy man's reward as Jesus told us in the Gospel. God rewarded her through the holy man, the prophet Elisha, by giving her a miracle of having a son at a time when her husband was too old. Every love and kindness done in the name of God is always

rewarded. Today, we are all invited to be like the woman of Shunem; to give to God by supporting the activities of His Church and her ministers and, more importantly, to love and support all those who stand for Christ and share in His mission of evangelization. We pray for peace and understanding in marriages by following the example of the Shunammite woman who first discussed her intentions with her husband and together they offered their generosity to the holy man. We also pray for couples who still seek the fruit of the womb for the visitation of the Lord upon their marriage. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true King of peace. In You alone is found freedom. Please free our world from conflict. Bring unity to troubled nations. Let Your glorious peace reign in every heart. Dispel all darkness and evil. Protect the dignity of every human life. Replace hatred with Your love.

Give wisdom to world leaders. Free them from selfish ambition. Eliminate all violence and war. Glorious Virgin Mary, Saint Michael the Archangel, Every angel and saint: Please pray for peace. Pray for unity amongst nations. Pray for unity amongst all people. Pray for the most vulnerable. Pray for those suffering. Pray for the fearful. Pray for those most in need. Pray for us all. Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear our prayers. Jesus, I trust in You!

Amen

