

BiTs & pieces

Readings: 27th -02nd May 2026

Monday	Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday.....	Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday.....	Jn 12:44-50
Thursday. Our Lady of AFRICA	Jn 2:1-11
Friday.....	Jn 14:1-6
Saturday.....	Jn 14:7-14

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.



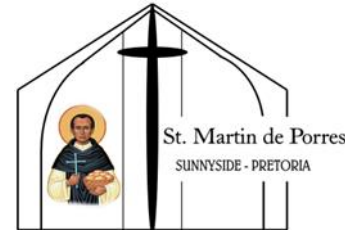
NOTICES:

- 1) **AFRICA DAY CELEBRATION:** Is commemorated on 25th May. St Martin de Porres will celebrate this special occasion on Sunday, 31st May, after the 10:30 Mass. This will be a bring- and-braai/ bring-and-share event. There will be lots of stalls to taste different foods from across Africa and our kids' corner will have jumping castles & lots of games. Let us come together to celebrate and share our rich cultures. **Parishioners are**

encouraged to wear their traditional attire. For more information regarding stalls and donations, please contact: **Ms Kgaogelo Mononyane 082 604 2537 OR Ms Jamela Mathebula 072 199 1288**

PS: Volunteers are welcome, please give your names to the above-mentioned contacts.

- 2) **MARIAN MONTH:** The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We begin on 1 May, the Memorial of St Joseph the Worker, with Mass at 08:00 followed by the Rosary. Thereafter, the Rosary will be prayed Monday to Saturday at 17:00, and on Sundays after the 10:30 Mass. All parishioners are warmly invited to join in this devotion.
- 3) **LVDA CHOIR:** La Voix des Anges invites the parish community to our Retreat Fundraising Concert on Sunday, 7 June at 13:00 here at the parish. The concert supports our annual choir retreat in July 2026 and our preparations for the 20th anniversary of the choir in 2027. All are warmly invited.
- 4) **SUGGESTION BOX:** Following the PPC discussions, St Martin de Porres Parish will be introducing suggestion boxes for parishioners to share their suggestions, concerns, and compliments. These boxes will be placed at the church entrances starting Sunday, 26 April 2026. We encourage everyone to participate—your voice matters.



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**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

26th APRIL 2026

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

First Reading: Acts 2:14.36-41

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: 1Peter 2:20-24

Gospel Acclamation:

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord, I know my own, and my own knows me.

ALLELUIA

Gospel: John 10:1-10

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

CALLED TO SERVE

Dear Pastors, Deacons, Religious and the whole community of the Faithful in the Archdiocese of Pretoria. Our need is great! Ask the Lord of the Harvest for Labourers for his Vineyard!

This Sunday is both the World Day of Prayer for Vocation to the Priesthood, Diaconate and the Consecrated life of community and Service and the Secondary Patronal Feast of Our Archdiocese the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Let us unite in prayer for good vocations for our Archdiocese and for the families that nurture vocations – not some other family, but from our own families.

Each of us is called to serve in our own unique way, using the gifts and talents God has entrusted to us. Service is at the heart of our Christian life—it is through serving others with love, humility, and compassion that we truly follow the example of Christ.

Let us open our hearts to this call, offering our time, our presence, and our abilities for the good of our parish and community. In serving one another, we serve God.

The Archdiocese currently has TWO seminarians in formation and 10 in formation for the Diaconate. We are blessed with a few Religious in formation, but nothing near the numbers we need for sustenance of the many projects and works of the kingdom. Please support the work of the newly reconstituted Vocations Commission:

- ❖ **Fr Samuel Gitonga**
(samuelimc@consolata.net) is the Episcopal Vicar for Vocations Promotion and co-ordinator of the Vocations team and the SACBC Vocations Rep.

- ❖ **Fr Tshepang Dithipe**
(ttdithipe@gmail.com) is the Vocations Director for Seminarians.
- ❖ **Fr Bongani Mahlangu**
(zakehlangu@gmail.com) The contact person for young men considering a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in the Archdiocese .
- ❖ **Sr Aleghakeze Noi Ghajeng, MSHR**
(aleghakezenoi@gmail.com) is the contact for women religious vocation discernment.

Let us ask our Lady of Good Counsel to intercede for an abundance of good vocations in our Archdiocese for the good of the Kingdom! Possibly you could use this in a Social Media Campaign to pray for Vocations for our Archdiocese. I also include a commentary from the Pontifical Missionary Union to assist your preparation for Sunday.

Please also take up the Special Collection for the Society of St. Peter the Apostle. This is one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies and is dedicated to the support of formation work for the Local Clergy and Religious.

The Society supports all our seminaries in South Africa and many of the formation programmes for Religious. Most of the Clergy and religious in our Archdiocese have been supported by the Society this is now our chance to encourage support for the Collection to pay this blessing forward.

Fr Chris Townsend
Chancellor
Archdiocese of Pretoria

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls,
you called the apostles
and made them fishers of men.

Continue to draw to yourself ardent and generous souls from among the young, in order to make them your followers and your ministers.

Give them a share in your thirst for the redemption of all...
Open before them the horizons of the entire world...

By responding to your call, may they prolong your mission here on earth, build up your Mystical Body which is the Church, and be 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' (Mt 5:13)".
Amen

MAY DEVOTION MOTIVATION AND ORIGIN

Although some repetitive set of prayers using the beads were said in some countries before, to pray for the good harvest season, the actual reason of saying the Rosary in the month of May is twofold:

1. The month of May is the time of the year (in Northern hemisphere) when spring is at the height of its beauty, and since spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. In her way, Mother Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our saviour Jesus Christ.
2. On May 13, 1917 Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal and told them to recite the Rosary every day for the peace in the world.

Therefore, praying the Rosary in the month of May is a way of renewing our life in the sight of our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of our mother Mary. Practically speaking, the power of the Rosary is beyond description. Everyone in

search of affection, protection, peace, and care is welcomed by our humble mother Mary. Since a powerful way to with God is through His mother, let us gather in the recitation of the Rosary this month of May, to seek the intervention of our mother Mary, before our Lord Jesus Christ, for a good "harvest" in our own lives.

WORKERS' DAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

1 May

Originally born from the protracted struggle for workers' rights and social justice of the late 1800s, Workers' Day has been an international holiday in many countries since 1891. In South Africa, a country with its own long and sordid history of labour and social conflicts.

Workers' Day has been officially recognised and observed since the first democratic elections in 1994. The holiday serves both as a celebration of workers' rights and as a reminder of the critical role that trade unions, the Communist Party and other labour organisations played in the fight against Apartheid.

Workers' Day in South Africa holds its own cultural significance, as the public holiday has come to signify not only the sacrifices made on the long road toward fair employment standards but also the bitter battle against Apartheid in which trade and labour unions played a key role. Because South Africa's working classes were those most oppressed by Apartheid, the struggle for better working conditions and the struggle to overthrow systemic segregation became closely linked.

Before the elections of 1994, labour and trade groups often used Workers' Day as a symbol to rally the population against the segregation and oppression of the Apartheid system, organising demonstrations and encouraging widespread resistance.