

BiTs & pieces

Readings: 25th -30th May 2026

Monday	Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday.....	Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday.....	Mk 10:32-45
Thursday.....	Mk 10:46-52
Friday.....	Mk 11:11-25
Saturday.....	Mk 11:27-33

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:

- 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**

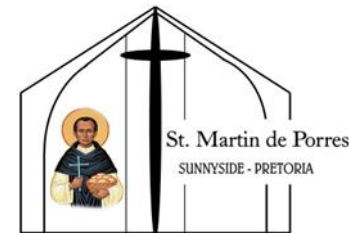
traditional attire. For more information regarding stalls and donations, please contact: **Ms Kgaogelo Mononyane 082 604 2537 OR Ms Jamela Mathebula 072 199 1288**
PS: Volunteers are welcome, please give your names to the above-mentioned contacts.

- MARIAN MONTH CLOSING:** Please take note that the closing of the Marian Month will take place on **Sunday, 31 May**. The day will begin with a Marian Procession at 08:00, during which the 20 decades of the Holy Rosary will be prayerfully recited. **THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE MASS ON THAT DAY AT 10:30**. All parishioners are warmly encouraged to participate in this special celebration in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Kindly check the notice board to see which decade of the Rosary you will be leading during the procession.

Mass Intentions: 24th May 2026

**Sun 24th
08:00**

- **PARISHINER:** Thanksgiving to God for the completion of my Novena. May God graciously hear and answer all my petitions. Amen.
- **MAMA TOM:** Praying for all the Sick, May God's mighty hand be upon them.
- **KACHOKO FAMILY:** For the repose of the soul of David Kachoko. May his soul rest in eternal peace and harmony be restored to the family left behind.



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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

24TH MAY 2026

PENTECOST SUNDAY - YEAR A

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 104

Lord send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7.12-13

Gospel Acclamation:

ALLELUIA ALLELUIA

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the Heart of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.

ALLELUIA

Gospel: John 20:19-23

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

2. Infant Baptism: Date will be communicated soon.



Eastern Deanery

Archdiocese of Pretoria



Dear Fathers, Deacons, Religious and Parishioners, greetings.

Our **Deanery Day event** will be on **Saturday, 30th May 2026** at the Church of the Beatitudes, Zwavelpoort.

Herewith the full program for our Deanery Day:

- The theme of our Deanery Day will be: **"Walking together as a Synodal Church"**.
- We encourage **All parishioners** from our parishes to participate. Please organize your own transportation (buses or combis) as parish community.
- Stalls will cost R250 each.** So far, the booking of stalls has been very slow. We invite groups, individuals and sodalities to pay the stall-fee of R250 at your own Parish Office and also indicate what type of item you will sell. The payment cut-off date will be 20th May.
- Our **collective colour** to be worn on that day will be **YELLOW** (the same colour as our 2025 Jubilee Year t-shirts).
- The **program of the Day:**

Arrivals: from 6h30 to set up games, jumping-castle, gazebos, tables and chairs.
From 8h45 we ask that there be silence as we will commence with the program.

First Activity: 9h00 **Adoration and Benediction** (with individual confession opportunities).

Second activity: 10h00 **Rosary Procession.** Waverley Parish was tasked to involve the participation of St. Mary's, Christ the Saviour, St. Peter Claver and St. Plus X in praying the Rosary during the procession. We will pray the Joyful Mysteries.

Third activity: 11h00 **Holy Mass.** Zwavelpoort Parish will forward tasks to various parishes to do the readings, hymns and processions and the songs prepared for the Deanery mass choir.

Afternoon activities: 12h30-onwards... Selling at stalls, games for all ages, entertainment, kiddies corner, etc.

The meals of the clergy (priests & deacons) will be catered for by their own parishes. The meal of our bishops will be the responsibility of the Deanery executive committee.

PENTECOST SUNDAY



The reading from the Gospel of John for this Pentecost Sunday, the last day of the Easter Season, takes us back to Easter Sunday, the day on which this Season began. It begins with the words: "It was evening on the day Jesus rose from the dead, the first day of the week." These words situate this scene, like so many of the Gospel stories that we have heard on the Sundays throughout the Easter Season on Sunday, on the day Jesus rose from the dead. Whether it was the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, or the story of Doubting Thomas, so many of the stories of Christ's appearing to His disciples in the Easter Season, have focused our attention on the fact that Christ appeared to his disciples after His resurrection as they were gathered together on a Sunday.

One of my favorite reminders of the importance of Sunday is actually that which we read in the story from the Gospel of Luke, with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Here, like today's Gospel story, Jesus appears to His disciples on a Sunday and celebrates with them that memorial supper that He asked them to celebrate in memory of Him. This emphasis that we hear over and over again throughout the Easter Season on the importance of Sunday, is a powerful reminder to all of us that this is the day that Jesus rose from the dead. It is the day He invites us to celebrate together and be reminded of who we are as His people.

As we celebrate on this Pentecost Sunday the birth of the Church, and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in order that they may be sent out into the world to share the Good News, I have to confess to being a little sad that among so many Christians, the importance of Sunday has been completely lost. These past few weeks, many of the priests of the Archdiocese of Toronto were on retreat with Archbishop Leo. There he spoke about the sad fact that due to the pandemic, Sunday Mass attendance in so many communities is down significantly. I myself have wondered if it is good for our parish to continue to live-stream our liturgies. I am divided by the fact that there are some seniors who really cannot get to Mass and I know it is important for them.

On the other hand, I also know that many people have come to believe that watching a Mass on-line is the same as attending Mass; and it is not. There is no replacement for gathering in the living community of the Church and receiving the Sacrament of Christ in the Eucharist. Like the disciples in today's first reading, and the young people who are gathering today to celebrate their confirmation, we must gather in person to receive Christ and the Holy Spirit and be sent out into the world to make Him present.

One of the reasons that it is so important to gather in person to celebrate as a community is expressed in the words that St. Paul offers us in the second reading for this Pentecost Sunday. Paul reminds us that any faith we have is a gift of the Holy Spirit, as he writes: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." As we physically make our way to the parish Church on Sunday, we are opening our hearts to encounter Christ and making ourselves more docile to the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. This Spirit, Paul tells us, was given to each of us on the day of our baptism. By this gift of the Spirit, we were all

of us made members of Christ's body the Church. Paul's words in this regard are so important that they are worth repeating. He writes: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." It is through the physical reception of the Eucharist, where possible, that we most perfectly open our hearts to this encounter with Christ and the Holy Spirit. These words remind us that the Church is not a building.

The Church is the people of God and each one of us is a living member of the Church, sent out to proclaim the Good News of Christ's resurrection. We sometimes think that the "church" is a building and that it is not important if we gather as a community on Sunday. This conviction may have been strengthened during the Pandemic. Pentecost serves to remind you and I that while we are the Church, and each one of us as members of Christ's Body, it is in our coming together as a community that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit that builds us up as Christ's Body.

On this Pentecost Sunday, let us pray for the grace to be reminded about what has saved us and made us God's children. Christ's Easter victory over death is what our faith is all about. By rising from the dead on the First day of the Week—Sunday, Christ saved us. Through baptism and confirmation, we came to share in this victory and are called as His people to celebrate each Sunday what He has done for us, by doing what He has asked us to do in memory of Him on the Day of the Resurrection. This means being physically present at Church on Sunday, to receive His Body and Blood, know His abiding peace, and be sent out into the world as His Church today.

PENTECOST – THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Wisdom** is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit because it is the perfection of the theological virtue of faith.
 2. **Understanding** is the gift of intelligence and enlightenment. It is the ability to think clearly to have insight and discern meaning.
 3. **Counsel** is good advice. It is the ability to teach, inform, guide, direct, warn, admonish, recommend and encourage.
 4. **Fortitude** is an unwavering commitment to God or a proper course of action, and it shows itself as moral strength, courage, determination, patient endurance, long suffering, a resolute spirit, stamina and resiliency.
 5. **Knowledge** is the ability to study and learn; to acquire, retain and master facts and information; and to put what is learned to good use for constructive purposes.
 6. **Fear of the Lord** is awe, reverence and respect for God. It acknowledges that everything comes as a gift from God, downplays personal achievement and self-sufficiency, and gladly offers praise, worship and adoration to God.
 7. **Piety** is personal holiness, and it includes devotion to God, prayer, virtue and goodness.
- May God give us Grace to have those gifts in our life's Amen.

