



St Paul's Church, Rondebosch
Parish Newsletter

CARITAS

February 2018

**In the beginning there was chaos
and there was WATER.**

The first creation was not stars and suns, it was not vegetation, it was not even light! Water and the Spirit of God were the beginning of Creation before the light of the first day. Look at the first verses of Genesis. It is God's Spirit, His Water, which moves and flows and brings life, from the first amoeba to the human psyche. Without the Spirit, without water, we are dead.

A drought exposes the spiritual drought of humankind.

We cannot just "Pray for Rain" like automata, hoping for magic floods. God gave us souls to know Him as well as brains to think and bodies to act so that we can change our behaviour, the manner of our lives and our social systems. Listen to that marvellous debate between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. Creation is still happening!

Our Lent programme on Wednesdays and Sundays
and beginning on 14th February, is all about
WATER.

A series of interesting discussion papers has been prepared by scientists and thinkers, mostly belonging to our own diocese. It is recommended for our study and it promises excellence - "Lenten Water Meditations" and "Water (In)Justice"

Don't get bored by this subject. It is too easy to stand back saying that it is "not my business" or "let the experts deal with it". There is much that we do not know or understand. Mankind, although producing magnificence in art and science, has managed to make a terrible mess of this Earth and we are all partly responsible.

This is going to be a course worth following on Wednesdays and Sundays during the five weeks of Lent this year.

Papers on the following subjects were prepared for the Diocese by well-known scientists who are also part of our Anglican Communion:

Professor Richard Fuggle (Christ the King), Dr Rachel Mash, Dr Kevin Winter (UCT and Christchurch), Revd Karl Groepe, Revd Shaun Cozett (was Project Manager Water Affairs), Rev Dr Isaias Chachine (UCT chaplain), Leanne Seeliger (Stellenbosch Univ. Water Institute), Revd Austen Jackson (St Mark's, District 6), Michelle Pressend (Environmental Sociology UCT, St Paul's)

The Sacredness of Water

Sanitation and Hygiene

Sustainability

Water Scarcity

Water as Habitat

On Wednesdays during Lent, there will be SOUP and ROLLS (suppliers from the congregation are needed please) in the Hall at 6.30 p.m. followed by guided Bible Study to enable discussion on these subjects.

The drought in the Western Cape is said to be the worst in 100 years. Having lived here for most of that time, I believe this to be true. Yet Cape Town and the Western Cape are still amazingly attractive and somehow survive for business, tourism, farming, management, education. No help has come from central government for water management in the Western Cape although this is a dire emergency. It is a national problem! Christian people are not exempt from political interest. Indeed we should be in the very front line, just as Christ was. Remember the Black Sash?

It is very tempting, when one has a regular weekday job, to “relax” in the evenings. That chair is so comfy! There is a good TV programme! You have to fix something at home that is “Screwtape” talking.

Have you heard of Screwtape? His name was created by C S Lewis in “The Screwtape Letters”. Screwtape himself is the chief Devil but he has imps who work inside our minds and our consciences and tell us such lovely stories – which we are happy to believe – and when we agree with them, the little imps are thrilled and dash off to report triumphantly to Screwtape “my patient actually believed me”. Don't get caught.

Screwtape is plausible - this is how he teaches you to think: My first duty is to my family. I must support them in every way, not just with the salary cheque but with interest and care. I must help with the washing up, and clean out the car. I should fix the back door which slams and give the dogs a bit of exercise. I must look at the children's homework and mend their socks/bicycles/cellphones/buttons . . . and I am tired after work, can't concentrate. So I'll just get into that chair, watch a bit of TV and go to bed. I'm no use to anyone. And I'll stay away from politics!

Or he says – Study! That is why you are here. Go up to the library and get out those papers, make notes and more notes. Put in 3 hours now and another 3 hours tonight, and then get up early and do some more. Then it is good to relax with your friends, a cup of coffee and chat. Don't think of anything else. And stay away from politics and other people's problems.

"I've got you" says Screwtape. "Forget God and all that stuff. No-one will notice if you are not there. You probably wouldn't learn anything new anyway because you already live a decent life and you pay your dues etc. just as Father Jim told us. What else should you do besides that? Other people will do it." [whatever "it" is] "It would probably be better for you anyway to have a walk along the beach on Sunday morning and perhaps a swim. You can worship the real God in Nature there as you watch the waves and that wonderful sea. If you can't get to the beach, what about a spot of worshipping God in Nature on the mountain or in the forest? It is so good for you to get out."

The devil has a real twist to his tail and don't be bluffed into thinking that he does not exist. He is crafty – even craftier than Zuma – so don't get taken in. That is how apartheid happened, all so logical and so unutterably evil. Beware. Look at your life and be honest.

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It is a good thing to do "Spiritual Maintenance"

(Times for confessions can be arranged through Reeve - 072 3987483)

Don't be shy. Get it off your chest! Share your problem. Get a bit of help. Begin again. Any time during Lent.

but we must have Property Maintenance too and we are probably losing both our "Maintenance Men"!

Russell knew how to look after the furniture and equipment of the church and hall. He tidied up the candles, and made sure that the crib was moved into place at Christmas. It was he who knew how to drape the crucifix and altar with purple during Passiontide. He made sure that the old palm crosses were burnt for the ash for Ash Wednesday and cut the palm leaves for the new crosses on Palm Sunday. He put out the chairs and tables for functions in the Hall, and tidied up the rubbish bins. He came at short notice when Clifford left over two years ago, and has been reliable and caring. Sadly his health has now turned against him and he can no longer serve us. We shall miss his stately courtesy and care.

Then **Ayanda**, who cleans the grounds and trims the overgrowth, has been ill with pneumonia which just does not clear. He has looked after the Rectory and Anhouse grounds. Now he is on multiple medication and will be off work for several weeks – in fact it is doubtful whether he will ever be fit enough for the heavy work which our parish grounds require.

The post of caretaker is being advertised and the Wardens hope that it will be filled promptly. Suggestions about replacements for these men would be welcome. If you know anyone who could work here please let one of the Wardens know.

Naughty Nonsense . . .

Though CLERICAL ERRORS are fun,
The Bishops decree there are none,
 or else they infer
 that if they occur
They must never be seen to be done.

There was a young lady of Tottenham
Her manners – she'd completely forgotten 'em.
 While at tea at the vicar's
 She took off her knickers,
Explaining she felt much too hot in 'em.

There was a young monk from Siberia
Whose morals were very inferior;
 He did to a nun
 What he shouldn't have done
And now she's a Mother Superior.

(all written by that prolific writer ANON)

and not such nonsense

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest;
But when or how that something comes
I leave to Thee, Who knowest best.

Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
That finds the good that dodges sight,
and seeing sin, is not appalled
But seeks a way to put it right.

Give me a point of view, good Lord.
Let me know what it is, and why;
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the thing that's known as "I".

Give me a sense of humour, Lord.
Give me the power to see a joke;
To get some happiness from life;
And pass it on to other folk.

(Thomas Webb, 2nd Welsh Guards, killed in action in World War I.)

**The annual VESTRY MEETING will be held on
SUNDAY 11th MARCH
after the 9.30 Eucharist**

Please will those responsible make sure that their reports are ready for printing in good time so that they can be presented to the meeting:

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| The Wardens | Lay Ministers | The Sacristans | Fund-raising Committee |
| The Choir | Women's Association | Social Welfare Committee | Anhouse |
| Stewards and Readers | Flowers | | |

WE NEED COUNCILLORS

and an alternate CHURCH WARDEN
because Lesley Munro will be stepping down.

Does God call YOU to this work?

Please pray about this. St Paul's is a living part of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ. He needs us to serve Him. Age does not really matter. Common sense is invaluable. You may have special gifts of management – please offer what you have however humble it is. Even if you are not “called”, please come!

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 27th March is Palm Sunday. The lessons are long and dramatic.

Services during Holy Week will be at 7 p.m.

Monday 26th a Penitential Service

Tuesday 27th Celtic Mass

Wednesday 28th Service of Tenebrae

Thursday 29th Maundy Thursday Eucharist and Liturgy which includes the beautiful ceremony of the Washing of the Feet

After that service there will be a Vigil in the Lady Chapel. If anyone has a few flowers to remind us that Gethsemane was a garden, please bring them.

Friday 30th 9 a.m. A service of worship

12 midday – 3 p.m. Three Hour Devotion. Some people come for the whole time, others just for an hour or two.

Saturday 31st is the day for cleaning and decorating the Church. We need all hands for this.

EASTER DAY

April 1st 6 a.m. The Easter Vigil

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9.30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(N.B. This is not an April Fool despite the date!!)

The Anglican Way, Faithful Discipleship, Learning, and Self-Discovery

by Revd Isaias Chachine, Anglican Chaplain to U C T.

New Wine into Old Wineskins (Mark 2:22, RSV)

As the new incumbent chaplain at the University of Cape Town, our strength can only be found in the Anglican way, rooted in faithful discipleship, learning, and self-discovery. I and my family are deeply grateful that the Diocese of Cape Town, St Paul's Anglican Church, Rondebosch, the Anglican House of Studies and the University of Cape Town have offered us this opportunity and believed in our capacity to make a contribution to the work of the Church. Conscious of the challenges which our institutions of higher learning are going through, we take the current pastoral charges with great enthusiasm and submission. Enthusiasm offers each of us an opportunity for learning and self-examination. Submission surrenders the self, letting ourselves become vulnerable and open to new possibilities so that new learning is possible.

Our challenge is how to pour new wine into old wineskins without breaking them. We bring nothing exceptionally new. We have come to learn from local practice. Our work will find resonance in the Anglican spirituality and ethos as consistent with the Anglican way. Our work will be enlightened and strengthened by the work already begun and evolved over the years since the inception of the Anglican Chaplaincy at the University of Cape Town. Hence, we commit ourselves to work side by side with the Diocese of Cape Town, St Paul's Anglican Church, the Anglican Students Federation, the Anglican House of Studies, and the Anglican Society in the Campus, in providing students with a caring ministry they need to continue with their studies and find a home in each one of us away from home.

The Anglican way

The Anglican way is a process, it evolves around the idea of 'theology as faith-seeking-understanding.' It is catholic in its core articulation, evangelical in its principle and proclamation, and socially engaged and prophetic in its witness. By prophetic is meant a spirituality which is socially critical, context challenging and transforming as it explicitly relates the word of God to the social and political context within which it is proclaimed.¹ Our theological and spiritual enquiry begins to make sense when we begin to understand our human circumstances as part and motive for the gospel. Human experience, reason, and revelation are key categories in the Anglican way. Hence, critical understanding of scriptures enables critical understanding of our social and political context. Central to our ministry is the integration of one's search for meaning with the core values of Christian discipleship as found in the Anglican way.

Faithful Discipleship

Anglican way is contextual, it insists that context is a critical ground in which ministry takes place and shapes itself. To ignore or neglect one's context is to miss the very idea of ministry that informs and affirms our discipleship in Christ. The Anglican way, often presented abstractly, is often difficult to understand and for ordinary people to penetrate and come to terms with. One can only become honestly faithful when one understands the way and heeds the call. Making the Anglican way transparent and accessible to all should inform our ministry's core objectives. Our commitment to faithful discipleship should be encouraged and find solace in the kerygma itself as presented by Luke:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
Because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives.
And recovering of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed,
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

(Luke 4:16-21, RSV)

In the context of faithful discipleship, it is in Jesus of Luke that we should find fulfilment and a model of ministry that is resonant to our own circumstances. Our academic endeavour and learning to be authentic and responsive to our current realities should be 'liberating and sight recovering.' It should be able to release us from the yokes of socioeconomic uncertainties we find ourselves in today. It should be able to restore our sight and offer us the vision we need in our society to discern what is right and resonant to God's will.

Learning

Faithful discipleship, as part and parcel of Anglican spirituality, implies that our learning is *faith-seeking-understanding*. Our learning should be critical, context sensitive and transforming. The challenge before us is how to integrate our search for knowledge with our call to follow Jesus in every aspect of our lives. Academic integrity is how discipleship and our social experiences may be combined to serve the greatest and the neighbour. Our understanding of spirituality is contingent on the personal, social, and environmental circumstances in which we find ourselves. Critical understanding of our learning will inform us of our context. Learning should not be divorced from context - context provides the clue to understanding ourselves. Context shapes our identity, is an avenue for learning and self-discovery. To come to terms with one's context is to discover one-self.

Self-Discovery

We discover ourselves as we serve the least fortunate in our midst, as we embrace the marginalized and the excluded. Critical to our ministry is to offer new specificities and vigour to one of the most valuable legacies of the Anglican theological tradition and spirituality - the idea that a person has a dignity and worth which social institutions should not be permitted to violate.

The Anglican way holds that the moral judgments of ordinary people are an essential ingredient and starting point for an effective theological deliberation. As we begin a new journey our encouragement in tackling the challenges before us is that: 'In the early church the evangelists developed countless strategies to make the gospel possible and accessible to all, depending on the kind of people and circumstances they were addressing. They spoke to Jewish people in one way, to the educated Greeks in another and to those outside the Greco-Roman milieu in yet another.' Today also, the church is called to be present amidst varied social situations and contexts and needs to respond adequately.

The lessons from the church's missionary history is that the gospel
affirms something of people's beliefs and circumstances,
points to the fulfilment of their authentic spiritual aspirations and humanity in Christ and
challenges all that is not according to God's will.

Father Isaias has come to Cape Town with Hilda, his wife, and their two daughters, Suzanne and Melissa. They are living in the cottage at St Saviour's in Claremont for the moment but hope to move to Goodwin Cottage next to St Paul's Rectory when it is available. Life has changed dramatically for them all. Grahamstown is a quiet place where it is easy to meet people and where one cannot get stuck in traffic! (A traffic jam in Grahamstown = 3 cars) If you can make this family feel welcome, please do so.

Fr Isaias has an office in Stanley Road, in Anhouse, and is part of St Paul's where he hopes students will come. Sunday evening services will soon resume. Liaison with university staff and students is being made, with a special emphasis on students in residence. A new ministry is being created but the form of this is not yet clear.

WELCOME TO OUR STUDENTS
whether you are at UCT or another college
whether you are new, in your first year out from home
whether you are returning to complete a degree or research
we are glad that you can join us.

PLEASE
whether you have been here for years or are new to the parish
WEAR A NAME BADGE
Don't hide. Tell us who you are.
We like to get to know each other
and, quite honestly,
our new Rector, Reeva, is working very hard at learning who everyone is but
it is hard to remember all the names.

**On Sunday 18th February, we shall welcome students specially at
the
9.30 a.m. Eucharist.**

If you have friends or family who are students, at any college not necessarily at UCT, please encourage them to come and WEAR A NAME BADGE!! New students, fresh from home, often feel strange and need encouragement so it is up to the senior students, and all of us, to welcome and befriend them.

The programme for each week has not been finalised yet, but it will come. In a sense, this is new territory. We have a new Rector, a new Chaplain. UCT and many other colleges have suffered great disruptions during the past couple of years.

We are trying to build a ministry for younger people, student age mostly, and although this has thrived in past years, it takes dedication and leadership to establish it again. For this reason we welcome, very heartily, the group which was born this year and wish them every support.

NAME BADGES PLEASE !!!

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Contributions received with thanks at the A/C St Paul's, Standard Bank, Rondebosch, 71488928