



St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

Parish Newsletter

CARITAS

November 2018

(from Rev Reeva the Rector herself, God bless her)

My dear Brothers and Sisters of St Paul's family

As we enter the season of Advent we prepare for the arrival of Jesus Christ, both his birth at Christmas and his coming again as Lord and King and Judge at the end of time. Advent Sunday marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year and like any new year, it is a time to look back and reflect on all that has taken place, and to look forward with hope and anticipation to what lies ahead.

What has the year 2018 meant for us as the Parish of St Paul but also for us on a personal level?

We give thanks for God's blessings, grace and faithfulness on us as a Parish family for 2018. It was indeed a challenging, exciting and amazing year especially for me as the new Rector of St Paul's.

It is with deep joy and gratitude that I want to express my appreciation and thanks to each parishioner for their support, participation and contributions in any way and form during 2018. A special thanks to the Churchwardens, Parish Council, Lay ministers, all Organisations, Arlene Christians our secretary, our workers, who devotedly dedicated so much of their time, energy and commitment in the planning, setup and management of events and worship services, so that everything run so smoothly in the parish.

Thank you also to Angela Bailey and her team who started our new vibrant Youth group, FOCUS and to Carol and Rev Isaias for building up our student group who are very enthusiastic and committed.

A word of thanks to Revd Darron and Rev Isaias for their ministry support, and mentoring during the year (as well as the retired clergy Rev Ivan Weiss, Rev Erica Murray and Bob de Maar.)

However we have also experienced some break-ins and losses this past year. And on a more personal level some of our parishioners have experienced deaths, sadness, sorrows, and loss and other personal challenges and heartaches, failures and disappointments during this year.

And they may ask the question how will I find my way forward when the usual light that illumined my path no longer shine? What do I do when my world is falling apart? Where do I go when it seems as if darkness is my only companion and God is nowhere to be seen? How can I look forward and prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ when I am surrounded by so much pain and suffering and anxiety?

Reflecting on what happened in our country this year we see a nation, society in distress. Although Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in as the fifth democratic president in South Africa on the 15 February the country still experience major, economic, political and social challenges . Mass unemployment, unwarranted violence and crime, education crisis, poor service delivery, corruption of our political leaders and the ethical and moral decay of our communities and our nation and we feel more discouraged. We also experienced environmental and natural disasters like the water crisis and veld fires. And we ask ourselves where is God in all of this?

In Isaiah 9 v 6 we read

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time and forever”

When Isaiah the prophet spoke the words of this text, the people of Israel had gone through a very sad time. Because of their sin and rebellion, God allowed the mighty kingdom of Assyria to come against the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and totally devastate it. Many lost their lives. Many lost their homes. They lost their whole country.

God’s people at the time are said to “see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom”, and they were afraid of the future.

But even in wrath, God remembers His mercy. So about 700 years before Jesus Christ was born, God gave the prophet Isaiah a marvellous vision of Israel’s restoration. Isaiah said that God would turn their darkness into light, their sorrow into joy, and their captivity into freedom, God gave a ray of hope in a very dark time in their national history.

These promises are all wrapped up in the birth of the promised Messiah, a Saviour who was to come because ***“unto us a child is born and his name will be Prince of Peace”***

It was like the Christmas star shining in the blackness of the night, to give hope to all. The same hope and light that God promised Israel, He extends to us today.

Jesus was born to bring hope, peace, love, joy forgiveness, freedom and change in the hearts of people.

Advent and Christmas help us to realize that in the face of much that spells despair, we are to be people of hope. We are to live in expectancy. The place of faith is not to ignore the reality and pretend that all is well, but to look, to watch and wait, be open to the work of God, the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the grace of the Lord Jesus, the Prince of peace who shape us and help us find a way forward.

This Advent we bring to God our disappointments and our longings, our hurts, our failures our frustrations. We bring to God all who live with suffering and despair, all who cry in their hearts, ***“How long, O Lord?”*** Let us allow our worship during this season of Advent to be a celebration of hope, new life and new possibilities. Let us look for the potential and promise in others. Let us commit ourselves to bringing hope into the world, while we wait patiently, watchfully, prayerfully, hopefully, for the Prince of Peace who will establish the Kingdom of God with justice and righteousness in all its fullness.

A blessed Advent, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from myself and, my family, Father Darron and Father Isaias and their family, the Churchwardens and the Parish Council may all of you experience love, joy and peace, this Christmas so that you can sing

Joy to the world the Lord is Come .
REV REEVA

And here is a message from Fr Isaias himself

While St Paul's provision of services every Sunday as a place of worship is welcome and honoured, I have had requests from students, suggesting that it would be good to have Anhouse as a place of fellowship where we could hold occasional fellowships, worship, and bible study, meetings which would help to foster a sense of belonging and encouraging others to join in. I would deeply encourage the Anhouse Committee to look into ways of addressing this request in ways which are compliance to Ansoc, Chaplaincy, and Anhouse. Disconnection between Ansoc and Anhouse does not benefit anyone. In the past Anhouse was the heartbeat of Anglican spirituality and ministry on campus, it boosted Ansocs' sense of belonging and fellowship, encouraging others to join and belong. Recovering the centrality of Anhouse as a spiritual heartbeat, in the Campus is critical. We want to bring to reality our pledge of making our ministry on campus a way of providing a 'home from home' for students who land at UCT's shores.

Apart from holding worship at Anhouse, I would like to begin a Learning Programme (LP) at Anhouse on the *Anglican way, Ethical discipleship, and Self-discovery*. This comes as a request from students who would like to deepen their spirituality in terms of biblical understanding and discipleship. This would be a continuity of our Sunday homilies where issues raised would be clarified and discussed further. And, I would like to ask the Committee if it could allow Ansoc to use Anhouse and its facilities in the planning of worship and other engagements that concern them. This would gradually strengthen Ansoc and increases its membership."

The Student Ministry Includes an 11 o'clock service on Sundays during term-time and attendance is slowly increasing. This has been encouraged by a couple of social evenings where everyone can get to know each other a bit more. These simple occasions, accompanied by supper, have been delightful. We feel heart-warmed – because we really do love our people, each other, and want to get to know each other better. We are all family.

Goodwin Cottage is at last being re-furbished so that it may welcome the UCT chaplain, Revd Isaias Chachine and his family. For those of you who do not know, Goodwin Cottage is a house next door to St Paul's Rectory, and close to the Liesbeek River footbridge. Now the floors are being re-done and is being re-painted throughout.

Our Church Warden, Carol Hartley, has made it clear that we need to budget our parish and it is our pledges that make it possible to do this. Please honour these pledges or it makes nonsense of all the work done by Trevor Christian who keeps our books. Like any household there are regular maintenance expenses which have to be paid – for electricity and water, for cleaning the hall, church, and grounds, for the security system, for office expenses and a secretary. It is difficult to keep up even with these at the moment and now, sadly, there are extra costs because of the crime which damages our property. All of us who are members of this parish share these costs and thanks go to the regular steady givers among us. Some, however, have lapsed – they may be going through bad times (that can happen to any of us) or they might just have forgotten – and that is sad for all of us and makes nonsense of the budget estimates.

Your Dedication Card gives the Wardens some idea of how to budget for the following year so please complete and return it.

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

The Parish thanks its people

who gave so generously that nearly R10 000 was added to its coffers on that one day. To put this in perspective, that money will bring us out of the red into solvency. It is important that the pledges are honoured.

Thank you to all our regular generous faithful givers.

Meanwhile the vagrant population not only seems to grow but continues to scatter unmentionable litter in the church grounds. Every night there are people sleeping on the Hall stoep and church steps. Some are harmless, some are not. Finding a heavy claw hammer “hidden” in the rosebush next to the War Memorial was a serious reminder that real violence can threaten.

Our church building is being attacked. A window in the Vestry about 10 Metres above the ground, quite an obscure little window - was smashed by a brick, the glass scattered all over the Vestry floor and over the Vestment cupboard. That has been repaired and bars put in. In October the Wayfarer’s chapel was broken into, again through a leaded window which had been twisted into a sort of corkscrew so that a person could get through. The candlesticks and cross were taken from the little altar, things of no intrinsic value but holy things. It was repairing the window which cost money.

These vicious happenings defile our sacred building and, although we know that buildings are not THE CHURCH, nevertheless they hold sacred memories and associations and deserve honour.

Evil remains active, with devilish and devious power.

“Thou shalt not murder” is definitely one of the 10 commandments and possibly the easiest to understand yet official approval has been given to a student whose doctoral thesis ends with the statement “ONE SETTLER ONE BULLET” written in capital letters so that there might be no doubt that murder is recommended. The official explanation from UCT avoids the truth.

Advent, like Lent, is a time of repentance, of re-thinking. There are no flowers on the altar, the colours are purple, we are getting ready in our hearts for a new Baby who was not just born 2018 years ago but is being born now in ourselves and it is hard not to be diverted by buying presents, by wonderful parties, by pretty decorations, or even by the music which comes to its best during this season. Formal Confession is one of the most valuable Sacraments of the Church (you can always ask about this) chiefly because on one’s own it is difficult to be honest and almost impossible to give oneself good advice!! It deserves an honoured place on one’s personal spiritual agenda. Am I too proud to go to Confession? There’s a thought

Racism in any form combines many of the deadly sins - there are seven of them and the deadliest of all is said to be **hubris** – the glorification of Self, so that “I” am the one who matters, who deserves recognition. The approved Ph.D. thesis recommends an obvious deadly sin, murder! Other deadly sins may be less blatant but this example drove me to study again the detailed self-examination of the seven deadly sins . . . and for most of them, to be honest, I am guilty as charged. What are the 7 Deadly Sins?

Pride Covetousness Lust Envy Gluttony Anger Sloth

Self-examination is necessary during for us all during Advent. Here is an example of the suggestions made regarding Hubris or Pride – the detail suggested is shocking because it is so near the bone!

“Do I indulge in too good an opinion of myself: make too much of myself in any way: am I constantly thinking of myself: boasting: seeking to put myself first: vain of my dress, powers, personal appearance: do I claim to be what I am not: have I been obstinate in an opinion: am I put out when I do not receive notice: deceitful in order to get the good opinion of others: have I made false excuses: am I over-confident in myself: have I put myself forward: desired power in order to exalt myself: made myself conspicuous in church at my devotions: been proud of my humility, of my repentance . . . and much more! **Covetousness** comes a close second. I won't go on but can assure you that by the time one has looked at **Accidie** (Sloth) and a few others one realises how “dirty” one can get. We are basically very selfish and look out for ourselves, just like the animals that we are. God wants us to evolve out mere animal living, to be like Him, His children, using the conscious conscience He has given us to see an entirely different perspective on our desires, our loves.

"We are not saints, we are not heroes. Our lives are lived in the quiet corners of the ordinary. We build tiny hearth fires, sometimes barely strong enough to give off warmth. But to the person lost in the darkness, our tiny flame may be the road to safety, the path to salvation.

"It is not given us to know who is lost in the darkness that surrounds us or even if our light is seen. We can only know that against even the smallest of lights, darkness cannot stand.

"A sailor lost at sea can be guided home by a single candle. A person lost in a wood can be led to safety by a flickering flame. It is not an issue of quality or intensity or purity. It is simply an issue of the presence of light."

Kent Nerburn, Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace

On Tuesday 4th December at 7 p.m.

Rustenburg Girls' High School will come to St Paul's to present their Carol Service.

They have been coming to us regularly each year for nearly 20 years (I think) and always bring beautiful music, not only choral but also instrumental – perhaps a violin or a harp too – but in the past have come at lunchtime. This year will be an evening occasion.

Please come to support Rustenburg if you can. In years gone by there were very strong links between Rustenburg and St Paul's. As always the retiring collection will go to African Scholars' Fund which provides bursary help to Secondary School learners in the Western and Eastern Cape. This year they have over 2000 children on their “lists”.

By the time you read this, the November breakfast, the Sale of gifts and Delicatessen, and the Book Fair will all have happened. There are many lovely people in this parish who happily give

time and effort into making these events successful and all we, the ordinary congregation can do, is to thank them for it. May God bless you all.

When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting out "clean living".
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and am forgiven."

When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

"When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

"When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

"When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect,
My flaws are far too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.

"When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

"When I say . . . "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, somehow!

By Mary Angelou

This will be held on Saturday 1ST December at St Andrew's church in Kildare Road, Newlands.

This lovely little church is set in beautiful surroundings just below Newlands Avenue. At one time the little cottages of this area were homes for ordinary working Coloured folk and fell within the ambit of the Peninsula Maternity Hospital in District 6 so that UCT students doing practical midwifery would do deliveries in Newlands! Opposite the church is a small hospital, the Maitland Cottage Home. In the 1940s, before the days of antibiotics, tuberculosis was rampant. Children often developed TB in their bones, in their spines, and they would have to lie still for months in plaster casts with special nursing and care, often with a special school! The site of the hospital for these children, the "Cottage Homes" in Maitland, was being re-zoned for housing and they had no alternative accommodation. Their situation was desperate.

In the meantime, the Michaelis family – known to Cape Town by their active support for the Arts and academia – were living at Montebello in Newlands. Their daughter, Iris, went to school at Herschel, and when she came of age her father bought her a house, close to her home, in Kildare Road, as a birthday present. "But I don't want a house" said Iris and so she gave it away to the Maitland Cottage Homes who were so urgently looking for premises for their sick children – and now, if you go in the front door of that little hospital in Kildare Road and look up above the front door, you can see the photograph of Iris Michaelis whose gift gave so many children life. The Montebello estate was left to the S A College School (SACS) after Michaelis himself died and is possibly one of the most beautiful properties in Cape Town.

There used to be another church just up the road, on the corner of Newlands Avenue and Palmboom Road. It was deconsecrated (probably in the 1950s) and converted into a house.

There is so much history in the little streets of Newlands. Ghosts of the past haunt me there.

It will be a real treat to have a Quiet Morning at St Andrew's – under their trees and next to the stream, with the great mountain as a backdrop. Go if you can.

Another TREAT is the ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

On Sunday 2nd December 7 p.m.

Glorious music

THANK YOU all members of the choir and Sonja

It is probably helpful to have all these dates and times clearly set out now because everyone has plans for the holiday season, so here they are.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

DATE	TIME	
Saturday 1 December		Parish Quiet Morning
Sunday 2 December Advent 1	8h00 9h30 19h00	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist Advent Carol Service
Sunday 9 December Advent 2	8h00 9h30	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist
Sunday 16 December Advent 3	8h00 9h30	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist
Sunday 23 December Advent 4	8h00 9h30 19h00	Said Eucharist Sung Eucharist Christmas Carol Service
Monday 24 December	17h00 23h00	Crib Service Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday 25 December	8h00 9h30	Christmas service Christmas Service
Sunday 30th December	9h00	One Service
Sunday 6 January 2019	9h00	One Service

[Who remembers Bible Sunday? It used to be about 16th December with a collect saying “read, learn and inwardly digest” the words of the Bible. Rather a pity we lost that one somewhere. Ed.]

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