



# St Paul's Church, Rondebosch

## Parish Newsletter

# CARITAS

October 2018

On your feet now – applaud God!  
Bring a gift of laughter;  
Sing yourselves into his presence.

Know this: God is God, and God, GOD.  
He made us; we didn't make him.  
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

Enter with the password: 'Thank you!'  
Make yourselves at home, talking praise,  
Thank him. Worship him.

For God is sheer beauty;  
All generous in love,  
Loyal always and ever.

WHAT IS THIS? You won't believe it but it is a modern translation of an old Psalm – the Jubilate, Psalm 100 – and exactly the right psalm to sing in springtime! For the sun is out, the moon is full, the trees are green, the waterfalls stream down the mountainside, the daisies are out. Cheer up, everyone! In spite of politics and 'evil men', God is there, our Governor. So bring your gift of laughter to church too!

Thank you to the choir for their faithful Sung Evensong at the end of every month – they sing their hearts out, bless them all. If you can sing, join them.

JUBILATE!

OK, the church roof leaks and there are buckets in the aisles, the vagrants are still messing around the church, the bell doesn't work, and we have lost some great people – but we have so much that is good.

**THANK YOU – ALL OF YOU!**

The Fund-raising Team have done it again, with the UCT Big Band and Mike Campbell and some really enthusiastic soloists who captivated us all. Everyone had a warm, merry, happy evening listening to music old and new. Food to fill us, wine to cheer us, happy

faces, and an atmosphere of warmth brought out memories to enhance the pleasure of the present.

The enthusiasm of the students themselves was the hallmark of the evening, and it was infectious. They love their music so much that they just have to play, and when they sing they sing with soul. UCT can be proud of them, their musical ambassadors. Thank you for coming and giving up your time to us – and please come again.

Thank you – Enid, Leon, Lesley – what a team you are! The hall was welcoming and lovely, the food was great, and all the arrangements went smoothly. Miracles like this only happen as a result of hard work beforehand, during the evening and afterwards! Great stuff. This fund-raising team made R15 000 that night. Hooray! And, as Enid said, 'We couldn't have done it without the wonderful generous help from all the parish people. God bless you all!'

Now look out for the next effort. A book sale is being planned for the last weekend of October and we shall need new stock – if you have old books, please bring them in. If we have a good enough collection it will be worth alerting the second-hand bookshop dealers in the Western Cape, who are often looking for new stock, and they pay well. There are contacts in Hermanus and Wellington, Franschhoek, Kleinmond and many other places, some near, some far.

### **FLOWERS AND THE BUS TRIP!**

**Thank you to the Bailey family for organising this weekend away.** What was really valuable was the company! Of course there were some spectacular splashes of white daisy, of yellow oxalis, of brilliant orange vygie and Namaqualand daisy, but it was early in the year for the great displays and, quite frankly, dashing along a highway on a bus is not necessarily the best way to see the sights. The best flowers were the people on that bus trip, many of them from parishes elsewhere – and we made an excellent mix, especially during the games afternoon! The game Thirty Seconds was a winner! Langebaan itself is delightful with its long, seemingly endless, flat beach and still lagoon with the Postberg peninsula shadowed on the other side. We had glorious weather, sunny with no wind, comfortable rooms, excellent food and good company. We strolled around the delightful small shops in the village – I found a nice little Italian violin there but managed to restrain myself from buying it – and a first-class library.

On both evenings the bus took us to the Casino for a great dinner so we were able to stroll around the gambling tables. You cannot believe the huge sums that were being pulled off wads of R200 notes for the bets. Someone suggested trying our luck for the parish to make lots of money to pay for fencing and there were stories about 'fail safe' systems which could make our fortunes but nobody was brave enough to try – a missed opportunity indeed. Perhaps Reeva know that her parishioners are not really gamblers at heart.

## SPECIAL PEOPLE

It is really dangerous to pick people out and say that they are special because, of course, each one of us is 'special', but this month there are two people who must have special mention and, as it happens, both of them are women.

Muriel has been with us for over 23 years and for most of that time she has come across to the church every Saturday and usually on a Monday, as well as other days of the week if there are any services, to do the Sacristan work. This is a regular and vital service to all of us in the congregation. Always with a smile, always patient, always ready – that is Muriel. Age has begun to creep up on her and, because she is now a proud 90 years old, her family are worried about her being 'on her own and far away', so she has moved to the Canal Walk side of the city and far from St Paul's. We are already missing her sadly, not just for all the work which she so freely gave us but for her cheerful smile. Dear Muriel – may you be happy in your new home.

She has been with us for about 15 years and for most of that time she has come across to the church every Saturday and usually on a Monday and perhaps other days of the week if there are many services to do the Sacristan work. It is a regular and vital service to all of us in the congregation. Always with a smile, always patient, always ready – that is Muriel. Age has begun to creep up on her and, because she is now a proud 90 years old, her family are worried about her being 'on her own and far away', so she has moved to the Canal Walk side of the City and far from St Paul's. We are already missing her sadly, not just for all the work which she so freely gave us but for her cheerful smile. Dear Muriel – may you be happy in your new home.

And then there is someone else, someone who first came to St Paul's nearly 30 years ago and taught faithfully in our Sunday School, sang in the choir, resurrected the Women's Association, and helped with the flowers at the big festivals. She was always there, wanting to be useful. As a young mother she was widowed in Kimberley, then moved to Zimbabwe while her two daughters were still very young and she had to work and bring them up all by herself – no wonder she was so good at teaching the children, first in Bulawayo and then here at St Paul's! We remember her as a feisty small person, firm with her walking frame, patiently waiting for her busy daughter in the church. Lorna Heighway was received by her dear Lord and Master on 26 August 2018 and already we miss her presence (and wit) here in the parish.

And, because Lorna was a dedicated Sunday School teacher, this reminds us about

**The Sunday School, the children, who teaches them now? Where do they learn and what?**

It is, of course, Rue who is our stalwart here. She is in the hall during the 9.30 a.m. service teaching the five or six children who come. The service is 'piped' through to the

hall while the children colour in and get their own teaching. But we have so few families with children that it can be rather dispiriting.

When we were children we were gathered each evening to say our prayers and to say the Lord's Prayer. Every morning there would be a short Bible reading. We were taken to Matins on Sunday mornings (where we played castles with the hassocks between the pews) and on Sunday evenings we sang hymns, loudly choosing the ones which we wanted to be sung first! The Biblical characters all came alive to us. We coloured in pictures of the Ark and the Lion's Den. We made Easter cards and Christmas cards. In Lent we were given bits of the Bible to memorise. Perhaps this was exceptional but it gave us a foundation on which to build a faith.

Do you know any family which gives religious teaching at home?

THERE IS NO RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN SCHOOLS ANY MORE – perhaps the Church has not realised this yet. It is rather like having to cook without ever having been in a kitchen! The children no longer hear the Bible stories, they are not taught to say their prayers, they do not know any hymns – they have no points of religious reference in their experience. How did this government justify such a disastrous policy?

'Please teach my children about your church,' I was asked 'We, the parents, don't believe in God but the children must choose for themselves when they are older, so tell them.' Where does one begin? There was a 10-year-old girl who had never heard of the Lord's Prayer or the Ten Commandments, the story of Noah, or Daniel, or even the Creation! Her knowledge of the Gospel had got stuck on Father Christmas and chocolate Easter eggs. How can one teach history without a religious background? The 'Christian' people are the worst offenders. A Muslim child must learn the Koran **by heart!**

Where does one begin to teach a child? I asked Fr Ivan Weiss, and immediately he said, 'Begin with the stories of the Old Testament.' Of course, the Old Testament is common ground for Christians, Jews and Muslims, and cannot be considered partisan in South Africa where those are important faiths – and what a wonderful base it gives for the faith which comes later. Sadly, many people have got bogged down with translations of the Bible which are so old-fashioned that they are like a foreign language, almost impossible to understand. That is why I have given an example of a modern version on the front page of this *Caritas* – would you have recognised that as the Jubilate? And yet it is a valid translation which brings the psalm alive with new meaning. For my 10-year-old girl, I trotted off and bought a copy of *The Message*, with decently large print, and a story book of Tales from the Old Testament produced by an Italian author in really large print and with pictures. A starting point – no more. What I did say was that these books were for **USE** and not for decoration. If the reader did NOT underline passages, did NOT dog-ear the pages, did NOT make notes in the margin, then she wasn't using it properly. My very polite and well-brought-up little girl was horrified. 'Mummy, she says that I MUST write in it – it is not to be kept holy.'

Of course 'Religion' is a form of belief but it is not 'Faith' itself. Try explaining that to a 10-year-old while her mother, who believes nothing, is also trying to explain!

It is, perhaps, important for people to read the Bible in language which is commonly used by them – not in stilted English. We have got to become colloquial with our faith and stop regarding the old printed words as the final edition! They are not. So I hope that you enjoyed reading Psalm 100 as translated in *The Message* by Eugene Peterson. Of course it is not a perfect translation – but what is? Maybe it will encourage you to experiment with a new translation yourself.

This country, and presumably all those countries where religion cannot be taught in schools, is failing its people by not giving them religious teaching. There are no standards left. Does this have something to do with the social and family mayhem from which the country suffers now?

### **Forrest Gump dies**

and goes to Heaven but when he arrives at the Pearly Gates he finds them closed! Luckily St Peter is there to welcome him.

'Well, Forrest, it's certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you but I must tell you that the place is filling up fast and we now have to administer an entrance examination for everyone. It is quite a short test but you have to pass it before you can come in.'

Forrest responds: 'It shor is good to be here, St Peter, sir, but nobody every tolt me about any entrance exam. Shor hope the test ain't too hard; life was a big enough test as it was.'

'Yes I know, Forrest. But the test is only three questions. First, what two days of the week begin with the letter T?'

'Well, that's easy – that'd be Today and Tomorrow!' St Peter's eyes open wide. 'Forrest, that's not what I was thinking but you do have a point and I didn't specify so I'll give you credit for that answer. Here's the next one – How many seconds in a year?'

'Now that's harder' says Forrest, 'but when I thunk about that I guess the only answer can be twelve.' 'WHAT?' says St Peter. 'Twelve!! Twelve! Forrest, how could you come up with twelve seconds a year?'

'Well' says Forrest, 'there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ...' 'Hold it,' says St Peter, 'I see where you're going with this and I see your point and though that wasn't quite what I had in mind I'll have to give you credit for that one too. Let's go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?'

'Sure,' Forrest replies, 'that is the easiest one of all. I learnt it from a song – ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own ...'

St Peter opened the Pearly Gates and said, 'Run, Forrest, run ...'

Editor's Note: At present ANSOC has no status at UCT and has not been able to use rooms for meetings, use the chapel or take advantage of any other benefits available to UCT societies which are recognised.

ANSOC, the Anglican Society at UCT, lost its status as a recognised organisation about five years ago because there was such a small active membership. This is a serious disadvantage to the work of the chaplaincy at UCT.

Extracts from the

### **University of Cape Town Anglican Chaplaincy Preliminary Report**

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After taking office in January 2018 as the new Anglican Chaplain at the University of Cape Town I realised after climbing one mountain that there are many more mountains to be climbed, that there is so much more to be learnt and understood.

For over 80 years the Chaplaincy has been a resilient community of faith, and I thank those who served in the past. But time has passed and things have changed. Student life and ministry at the institutions of higher learning have had to meet great challenges which have affected the Chaplaincy's ministry and required new ministerial strategies.

### **ANSOC**

It is ANSOC, the Anglican Society at the University of Cape Town, which makes an Anglican ministry possible at UCT but, during the tenure of the last chaplain, membership virtually disappeared, ANSOC no longer qualified as a society at UCT and all privileges were lost. I approached the societies' office earlier in the year with the view of redressing this and the process is under way, but nothing can be done if our numbers remain small – a considerable number of students committed to the society is required before a society can be registered. One of the critical implications of this to our ministry is that, without being registered as an active member, we are not eligible to the benefits the university makes available to its societies.

### **The relationship between St Paul's and the UCT Chaplaincy**

The Chaplaincy, however, brings together the university and the congregation of St Paul's. As the new chaplain, I commit myself to strengthening this ministry as part of St Paul's, assisting the Rector, Revd Reeva Mulder, and Revd Darron Misplon where

necessary. Regular sessions between myself, the rector and the warden of Anhouse to share ideas about the ministry to students have been inspirational.

Our central commitment, both for St Paul's and the Chaplaincy, is to be a 'home away from home' to all the students who land here, many of whom see St Paul's as their congregation of choice. Apart from the regular provision of pastoral care and counselling to students and staff at UCT, leading devotions and the celebration of the Eucharist has traditionally been part of the focus of Chaplaincy ministry.

Many students attend the regular Sunday services at 8.00 and 9.30, but the mid-week celebration of Mass on main campus has been temporally discontinued given the dearth of students' attendance. It is encouraging to see that attendance has increased significantly at the services which are designed for students every Sunday at 11.00 at St Paul's and every Thursday at 1.00 on the main campus. These include a brief homily where students are encouraged to respond on a topic of their choice.

## **Anhouse**

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 encourage others to join in. 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 ANSOC's sense of belonging and fellowship, encouraging other students 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.

Reverend Isaias Ezequiel Chachine  
Anglican Chaplain at UCT

There was no response to the request in the last issue of CARITAS which asked students to invite Revd Reeva or Fr Isaias to a meal at your place – whether in residence or in rooms somewhere, they are not particular – and invite a friend or two.

Of course now it is exam time and everyone is deeply dedicated to swotting for exams, and quite right, too ... but you have to eat sometime. Please re-consider this possibility of 'sharing'.

Many of us will be thinking of you and praying for you when you write your exams. May all go well. There is a list in the Lady Chapel.

'At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.' Sorry, Sonja and all! Ed.

**WARNING to BOOKWORMS! WARNING to BOOKWORMS!**

Remember the Book Sale on 27 October, so look through your shelves and cupboards. We shall need 'new stock'!

***Come and bring a friend if you can***  
**to our**  
**PARISH BREAKFASTS**  
**on the last Saturday morning of each month**  
on 29 September and 27 October.

Spring time, the pretty ring time! May there be sunshine as well as friendly warmth.

There will be Mass in the Lady Chapel at 8 a.m. for those who love spiritual nourishment first.

**WELCOME TO ALL**

*A really happy evening  
was hosted by Revd Reeva, Carol, Revd Chachine and his wife Ilda  
for students at a loose end  
on Friday 21 September  
in the hall.*

*There must have been 20 students, some in traditional dress looking gorgeous (the men did not try to dress up, which was a pity), and plenty of good food. There were cards and backgammon and Othello board games, there were 'introduce each other' sessions, and altogether there was so much fun that it was hard to get the students to go home. My word, but there are some amazingly bright people!! And they come from all over Africa – Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Lesotho – and they are doing such difficult things e.g. PhDs in amazing subjects – curatorship, property studies, astronomy and so on. Eventually Fr Isaias made them close down their board game so that we could all go home because it was so late. What a happy evening! We must do it again.*

'You love God as much as the one you love the least.' (Fr Huge)

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